**A MELTING POT**

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| **А** The United States of America has probably one of the most “mixed populations” in the world. This is why it is often called “melting pot”. The first Americans were the Native Americans- there are about 2 million of them today, about 0.8 percent of the population. Their ancestors came to America over a “land bridge” from Asia 40,000 years before Columbus. |
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| **B** Many years later, in the 1600s, people arrived from Europe. The first group came from England and France. Today about 32 million Americans (about 13%) have English ancestors from over 300 years ago. The Europeans also took people by force from Africa to work for them in the “New World”. As slaves they had a very hard and difficult life, and many of them died during the journey to America or on tobacco and cotton farms. There are about 30 million black Americans (about 12% of the population in the United States today) and most of these are descendants of slaves. More recently, people have come to the United States from other parts of the world. Between 1820 and 1860 many people came from Germany and Ireland – about 58 million (about 23%) of Americans have German ancestors and about 39 million (15%) have Irish ancestors. From 1860 to 1920 many more people came from other European countries including Russia, Poland, Greece, Turkey and Italy. |
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| **C** Today, the fastest growing group in the United States is Hispanic. There are about 25 million Hispanics (about 9% of the population) in the United States who came from Spanish-speaking countries such as Cuba, Mexico and Puerto Rico. There are also large numbers of people from Asian countries, including China, Japan Korea and the Philippines. In total, there are about 7.5 million Asian Americans (about 3% of the population). |

**THE FIRST SEISMOGRAPH**

In 1989 millions watched on television as a powerful earthquake rocked San Francisco shortly before baseball's World Series. That quake's tremors brought death and destruction around the Bay area.

Today we know that the shifting in the earth's crust causes earthquakes. This movement sends "seismic waves" across the earth's surface, much as dropping a pebble in a pond sends ripples across water.

People living in Han China believed that angry spirits caused earthquakes to express their displeasure with society. Scholars studied quakes closely, believing they were interpreting a divine message.

In A.D. 132 Zhang Heng invented the world's first seismograph, an instrument for detecting and measuring earthquakes. Zhang's device resembled a domed, cylindrical urn. Each of eight dragons around the top held a ball in its jaws. At the base of the urn sat eight toads with upturned heads and open mouths, each directly under a dragon.

When a tremor occurred, a mechanism caused one of the balls to fall into a toad's mouth. This action showed that somewhere an earthquake was taking place. The side of the seismograph where that toad was sitting indicated the quake's direction. As the ball popped into the toad's mouth, the loudness may have indicated the tremor's strength.

Zhang Heng's seismograph had one quality that today's instruments lack: it was also a work of art.

**Выполните задание в письменном виде.**

Представьте, что Вы познакомились по интернету с девушкой, c которой Вы уже некоторое время общаетесь. В последнем письме она пожаловалась, что жизнь в ее городке однообразна, сходить некуда и посмотреть нечего, и поинтересовалась, как у Вас в родном городе обстоят дела. Используя данный ниже план и вопросы, напишите ей ответ и расскажите о своем городе.

PLAN

Dear + (your Internet friend’s first name),

I’m writing to tell you about my home town.

Para 1: What is the name of the city/town?

Where is it situated?

When was it founded?

What is it famous for?

Para 2: What places to visit are there?

Where can visitors stay?

Where can visitors go shopping and eating?

Where can people relax in the city?

Para 3: What do you like about the city?

What do not you like about the city?

What do visitors usually say about the city?

Para 4: Ask your Internet friend to write back soon.

 Best wishes,

(your first name)

Пример письма.

Dear Susan,

 Sorry I haven’t written for so long but I’ve been very busy. I have been studying for exams. It was great to get your letter and hear all your news. Especially, I liked that you and your parents will come to visit us in September.

 The weather is still very warm and we can spend a lot of time at the beach. I think your parents will enjoy the old city. At that time the music festival will take place and can visit it too.

 You asked what clothes you should bring. You will be fine with light summer dresses, skirts and trousers and a sweater for the evening. It can be cool. You shouldn’t forget to pack your swimming suits. It will be warm enough to swim.

 Well, that’s all for now. I have to go and finish my exam preparation. I hope your exams go well too and you have a lovely summer. See you soon.

Best wishes,

Anna