



PRAGUE POST
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English language education program

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THE PRAGUE POST

Almost the whole issue of *The Prague Post* newspapers (September 19, 2001) is dedicated to the U.S.A. tragedy.

Before reading:

Prepare reports on what happened on Tuesday, September 11, 2001 in the U.S.A. Continue with a list of what has happened in the U.S.A., the Czech Republic and the rest of the world since Tuesday. Share your reports with other students in your class. When preparing your reports, use facts only and do not speculate. The Prague Post newspapers might provide useful resources for your reports (see page A1, A5, for example).

Words you might need:

to hijack – unést (letadlo)

twin – dvojče

tower – věž

World Trade Center – Světové obchodní středisko

to crash – narazit

to destroy – zničit

to rescue – zachraňovat

rescue workers – záchranáři

debris, remains – trosky

victim – oběť

See page A3: 'ARAB COMMUNITY IS UNEASY'

Questions after reading the article:

1. What did the U.S. Vice President say about terrorists and the reprisal?
2. What do the members of Prague's Arab community fear?
3. Give examples of what the Arabs do in the Czech Republic.
4. What do some people think about the Arabs when they see them?
5. What did these people experience in their home countries?
6. What happened to some Arab communities in the U.S.A.?
7. What is the situation of Muslims in the Czech Republic?
8. Why, according to the words of a Palestinian living in Prague, were some Palestinians celebrating?
9. What is Afghanistan like?
10. What do the Arabs think about a planned attack on Afghanistan?

Vocabulary:

backlash – prudká reakce

wrath – hněv, pomsta, trest

to pledge – zavázat se

reprisal – odvěta

to vow – přísahat

to unleash – rozpoutat

to harbor – poskytovat přístřeší,

přechovávat zločince

to vent – dát voln průchod (citu, náladě)

to chase – pronásledovat

mob – dav (neklidn)

clampdown – přísné omezení, opatření

atrocities – ukrutnost, hrůza, zvěrstvo

jubilations – jásaní, jásosť

barren – holá pustina

Read the 'INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS' on page A8. Do you identify yourself with any of these reactions? Which ones?

Vocabulary:

to retaliate – sáhnout k odvetě

to condemn – odsoudit

to combat – bojovat proti

surreptitiously – tajně, bez dovoletí, skrytě

to crumble – rozpadnout se na kusy

to console – utěšit

to resist – ubránit se, vzdorovat

temptation – pokušení

Activities after reading the articles:

What do you think about the whole incident? Give your comments and share your opinion. Do you agree with the planned reprisal of the U.S.? If not, what would you suggest?

Almost everybody agrees that world peace is one of the most important things. Have you ever been thinking about how to achieve world peace? Can you and your friends help in a peace process?

The Prague Post, September 12, 2001

See page B5: 'NOISES OFF...'

Before reading:

Have you ever been to Česk Krumlov, south Bohemia? Those of you who have, share your experience with the rest of the class. What did you see in Česk Krumlov? Did you see a revolving auditorium? Describe it to your class-mates.

Questions after reading the article:

1. What is UNESCO? Name some of its activities.
2. Get information about the history of the Česk Krumlov's revolving auditorium from the article.
3. What does the Culture Ministry want to do with the revolving auditorium in Česk

Krumlov and why?

4. Explain why the Ministry wants to remove the auditorium.
5. Some people do not support the theater's removal. What do they do?
6. What are the plans of the district office and a castle director?
7. Do you agree with a castle director's words: "Modern culture should have its place, but not to the detriment of historical objects."?

Vocabulary:

revolving auditorium – otáčivé hlediště

to violate – porušit, narušit

counterpart – protějšek

heritage – dědictví

conditional – podmíněn

commitment – závazek

unilaterally – jednostranně

to perceive – chápat, uvědomit si

water table – hladina podzemní vody

to petition – žádat

detriment – škoda, újma

Activities after reading the articles:

Do you know any other sites in the Czech Republic that are listed in the World Heritage list? Find more information about them.



LESSON PLAN: Education

Answer this question: "What is important in people's lives?" Make a list of your answers.

Did you include 'education' in your list? Do you think that education is important? Why? Why not?

Education – vzdělání, v chova

The following quotation might help you understand the importance of education:

"Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom." (Bahá'í Writings)

"Pohlížejte na člověka jako na důl opl. vající drahokamy nadozřimé hodnoty. Jen v chovu lze dosáhnout toho, že ony poklady vyjdou na povrch, že z nich lidstvo bude moci těžit."

Work in pairs and discuss what you want to achieve in your life. Will education help you achieve your goals?

Education gives you the power to make choices about your life and the know-how to make them a reality.

Now, think about your goal for this school year. Do you want to improve your knowledge of any subject? Which one and why? What are your strong and weak points as a student? What do you wish to achieve this school year? Write your goals down in your exercise book and keep it. At the end of the school year you can look at your list of goals and evaluate what you've really achieved. Good luck!

Is one of your goals to improve your English? How do you study languages? Do you have any "secret" method? Share it with your classmates – it might be interesting for them.

Is your "secret" way of learning a language one of the following methods?

- meeting people from foreign countries
- traveling
- listening to English-speaking radio stations (BBC, for example)
- watching English-speaking films without subtitles
- listening to English songs – singing them or writing down lyrics
- writing letters to a pen-friend
- anything else?

One piece of advice for you: DO NOT BE SCARED TO SPEAK – DO NOT WORRY ABOUT POSSIBLE MISTAKES! REMEMBER: NOBODY IS PERFECT! also: HAVE THE COURAGE TO BE IMPERFECT!

Do you think that studying languages is important? Why or why not? People often speak about an international language or languages. What language(s) would you choose as international lan-

guages? Do you think there should be a universal language spoken by all people? What language should it be? What made you choose that language? Did you consider the spread of the language, the percentage of people using that language or the simplicity of its grammar? Share your opinion with other students.

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY LANGUAGES ARE IN THE WORLD?

Here is some information:

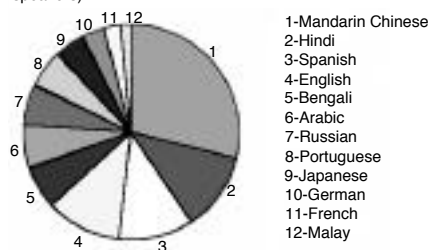
Estimates of the number of languages spoken in the world today vary depending on where the dividing line between language and dialect is drawn. For instance, linguists disagree over whether Chinese should be considered a single language because of its speakers' shared cultural and literary tradition, or whether it should be considered several different languages because of the mutual unintelligibility of, for example, the Mandarin spoken in Beijing and the Cantonese spoken in Hong Kong. If mutual intelligibility is the basic criterion, current estimates indicate that there are about 6,000 languages spoken in the world today. The 12 most widely-spoken languages, with approximate numbers of native speakers, are as follows: Mandarin Chinese, 836 million; Hindi, 333 million; Spanish, 332 million; English, 322 million; Bengali, 189 million; Arabic, 186 million; Russian, 170 million; Portuguese, 170 million; Japanese, 125 million; German, 98 million; French, 72 million; Malay, 50 million. If second-language speakers are included in these figures, English is the second most widely spoken language, with 418 million speakers.

(information from Encarta 98)

Vocabulary:

mutual – vzájemn, oboustrann, společn
intelligibility – srozumitelnost, pochopitelnost
unintelligibility – nesrozumitelnost, nepochopitelnost

12 most widely spoken languages in the world (by native speakers):



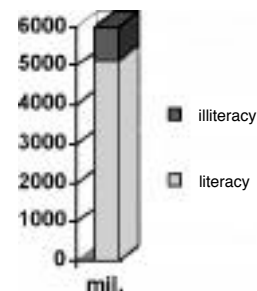
ILLITERACY

When reading about the economic problems and extreme poverty of so-called Third world countries, or watching television and seeing the victims of civil wars or famine, we get shivers. Why do the people live in such horrible conditions? Why don't they stand up for their rights? Because they do not know what life could be like. They do not know all the opportu-

nities they could have. Most people there spend their lives in ignorance without an opportunity to learn how to read and write! According to UNESCO, literacy rates increased from about 60 percent of the world's population in 1970 to 77.4 percent in 1995. However, due to the rapid increase of the world's overall population, the number of illiterate people has also grown. UNESCO estimates that in 1995, an estimated 885 million (!) adults worldwide did not have basic reading and writing skills - that is approximately 15% of the adult population and it means that every seventh person on earth cannot read or write. The problem is particularly serious in sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia, and the Middle East, areas where literacy rates averaged below 60 percent in 1995. UNESCO has shown that illiteracy accompanies poverty, low life expectancy, political oppression, and underdevelopment. In areas where such conditions occur, literacy rates are even lower among women and ethnic minorities.

These people do not need to know about vectors in mathematics. Memorizing all the capital cities of the world will not help them. But with a basic knowledge and education they will be aware of their rights and they will be able to live in human conditions. Without education, people can be easily misused by totalitarian regimes, by fanatical leaders, basically by anyone. Without education there is no real freedom and people are helpless. With education, we can choose our own path. Without it, we remain without opportunity.

(info from www.encyclopedia.com)



Vocabulary:

shivers – mrázení v zádech
literacy – gramotnost (Literacy typically means the ability to read, write, and calculate figures well enough to carry out activities that many people consider necessary to function in society. The rapid rise of new forms of electronic media and advanced technology, such as computers and electronic banking, may put even greater demands on individuals to learn increasingly complex literacy skills.)

illiteracy – negramotnost
to misuse – zneužívat
blind – slep

What is your opinion about the importance of education? Write an essay and send it to us. We can print it in a future issue of 'Newspapers in Education'.

STORY TIME: Man is a Leaf of Honey

"Man is a leaf of honey," said Papa Atanga, my friend from the jungle. "How is man a leaf of honey?" I asked. Papa Atanga started off down the path that led to the village of Meyo-Ntem and I followed, waiting for an answer. As we walked along he explained, "I will take this leaf of honey back to my village and give it to my first wife to store. She will drain the honey from the leaf into a special bottle she keeps. When she is finished she will give the leaf to the children. Each will lick the leaf and find some honey to sweeten the tongue. When the last child has finished, he will throw the leaf out behind the hut where the goats sleep. They will have their turn. The other animals, the chickens, the flies, ants and so on will come and find their share of honey left on the leaf."

The old man paused and stared into my soul with his black eyes, and for the first time smiled at me. "Man is a leaf of honey. This is what you need to know about us." He repeated this several times to make sure I understood, and then continued: "Man is good and man is precious and, like the leaf of honey, his goodness is inexhaustible. When you think that there is none left, there is still some there to find. This you should not forget."

(extract from a book 'A Leaf of Honey and the Proverbs of the Rainforest' by Joseph Sheppard)

Vocabulary:

leaf - list
to stare - upřeně se dívat
goodness - dobro
inexhaustible - nevyčerpateln



Questions:

Do you agree with the old man from the jungle that man is like a leaf of honey? Do you agree that people are generally good and that their "goodness is inexhaustible"? Why? Why not? Give some examples of good qualities or good deeds. Which of these qualities do you have and which would you like to acquire? What do you have to do in order to acquire these qualities? Work in pairs. Discuss this question with your neighbor.

LET'S REMEMBER YOUR HOLIDAYS

Did you enjoy your holidays? What did you do? Where did you go? What interesting things or places did you see? What people did you meet? What new things did you learn about your country or other countries?

Tell your schoolmates about your holidays. Share your experience with them. Prepare an exhibition of pictures or postcards from your holidays.

When you want to make your speech more interesting, use some of the adjectives you have learned so far. Make a list of adjectives

you could use when talking about summer or your holidays and then share your list with others (you can use a dictionary).

Try to write a short story about some interesting moment of your holidays. You can send us your story and we can publish the best one in the next issue of the 'Newspapers in Education' (to be published on October 3, 2001).

Vocabulary:

adjective - přídavné jméno
short story - povídka

DID YOU KNOW ?

that the area with the highest number of artesian wells in the world is the Great Artesian Basin in Australia? Artesian wells are natural wells, that means that water flows to the surface by itself. These wells were not dug by people. In the Great Artesian Basin there are about 3,000 of these natural wells and they are from three to 2,130 meters deep.

Vocabulary:

well - studna

CZ ENGLISH? NO!

Do you know what "Czenglish" is? Can you guess? Yes, it is English with some typical Czech mistakes. In 'Newspapers in Education' lesson plans you will have a chance to find out more about these mistakes and improve your English!

How would you translate the following sentence?

"Zajímám se o aktuální dění ve světě."

Which English word did you use for "aktuální"?

You should use: "current", "topical", "up-to-date", or you could use: "pressing", "pertinent", "of immediate interest".

The sentence above could be translated, for example, like this:

"I am interested in current world issues."

The word "actual" does not mean "aktuální", but it means "skutečný". For example: "The actual cost was much higher."

Think about 5 sentences using word "aktuální" and 3 sentences with "skutečný" and write them down. Read them for your classmates.

WHAT'S LIFE LIKE IN Australia ?

Can you imagine having early spring now or celebrating Christmas when it's 40°C? Can you imagine meeting kangaroos and koalas on your walks in the countryside? Can you imagine greeting your friends "G'Day mate!?" All this is possible in Australia!

Larissa, now living in Prague, comes from Australia. This is what she said about her home country:

"People often forget how big Australia is. It is a size of the whole of Europe or a little bit bigger. So when people think of Australia sometimes they think of deserts, sometimes of the beaches or of rain forests, even snowfields. It is all these things because it is so big.

Because of its size, it is very hard to say what the average temperature is in Australia. For example, the north has a tropical climate as it is not far from the equator. It does not have winter and summer, it is hot all year round. Its seasons are the wet season and the dry season. In the very south of Australia it can get quite cold. In our southern mountains we get snow, not as much as Europe, though. I grew up on the north coast of New South Wales, about 800 km north of Sydney, in winter the day times are between 17 and 21 degrees Celsius and in summer time it is usually in the low to mid 30's, but some days it gets really hot. I remember one day it was 46 degrees and I had to study! When it is over 40 degrees, the schools are meant to send the students home, but they never do.

Our nature is a huge part of our lives and even people who live in a city often feel a connection with the land. You don't have to go far out of the towns and cities to see kangaroos hopping around - you see them all the time. Koalas are quite shy and also there are not that many of them left because their habitat has been destroyed and we have introduced animals from Europe like cats and dogs which attack them. So, to see koalas you usually have to go national parks or other places where they are protected. We are very lucky because we have so many unique and beautiful animals. One of my favorites is the wombat. It is fat and furry.

Children in Australia start school when they are 5. They go to infant school, which consists of kindergarten (the first year of school) and years 1 and 2. This means infant school is for 3 years, then we go to a primary school, which is years 3, 4, 5, and 6. After this you go to high school, which is years 7 to 12. You are allowed to finish school after year 10. People who finish school at this stage often go to a technical college to learn a trade such as plumbing or building or secretarial studies. However, most people continue on to year 12 where they take big exams. If you want to go to university you have to get a good score in these exams. So, in Australia you usually spend 13 years at school and are normally about 18 when you finish.

(to be continued in the next issue of 'Newspapers in Education')

WORDS OF WISDOM: Happiness

"Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action." Benjamin Disraeli

"The (U.S.) Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself." Benjamin Franklin

"When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the

one which has opened for us." Helen Keller

"I have no money, no resources, no hopes. I am the happiest man alive." Henry Miller

"Good humor is one of the best articles of dress one can wear in society." William Makepeace Thackeray

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to

try to cheer somebody else up." Mark Twain

Questions:

When are you happy?

What brings happiness to you?

What can help you when you are sad?

Do you strive to make others happy?

How?

Is it important to make others happy?

TECHNOLOGY AND CHEATING

Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due

Has the Internet, the medium of information, become the best tool students have for cheating? Many American university professors think so. Digital plagiarism has become a huge concern for educators all over the world. So much so, that a doctoral candidate at the University of California-Berkeley has created a solution to cheating done using the Internet.

Plagiarism, taking someone else's thoughts or ideas and presenting them as your own, is a big problem in North American universities. Students seem to be at a loss for their own ideas. Plagiarism can be anything from failing to place quotation marks around someone else's words to copying an entire paper, word for word. It is one of the most serious offenses in the academic world. It has occurred as long as there have been teachers and students, but the growth of the Internet has made the problem much worse. Recent studies indicate that approximately 30 percent of all students may be plagiarizing on every written assignment they complete.

As the Internet has developed, cheating has become easier. Instead of having to scour magazines for days and hours to find what are called "paper mills", students can easily access "paper mill" web sites in a matter of minutes. Rather than spending weeks working on term papers that are intended to show how much students have learnt over the course of their term, students can easily cheat.

"Paper mills" are groups that either sell or give away pre-written term papers for use by students looking for a way to avoid doing the assignments themselves. Digital term paper mills are sites that exist on the Internet for the same purpose. Beyond the problems with term-paper mills, many students use the Internet as a billion-page encyclopedia, which they can use to cut-and-paste anything from a sentence to a whole paper. Some students do not want to do the work necessary for completion of a degree or diploma. Cheating can be seen as an easy way out. In the past, students have had the misguided impression that teachers do not use the Internet the same way that students do. In fact, teachers have found a better way to use it.

Teachers and instructors do not have the time to check the Internet for potentially plagiarized sources. Now they have a tool

that enables them to check a student's paper against everything that has been published on the Internet. The company that does this is called Plagiarism.org. In an effort to return academic standards to a high level, this group has applied a complex mathematical algorithm to each paper it receives. They compare each paper submitted to most of the documents available on the web, including periodicals, magazines and newspapers.

This is how they do it: Students and teachers upload their papers onto the website turnitin.org. This is done by simply cutting and pasting the text into an input window. Once the paper has been accepted by the website, the program begins what they call "Document Source Analysis." A specially developed set of mathematical algorithms is applied to the document giving it a "digital fingerprint." The fingerprinted paper is then checked against all the papers that turnitin.org has in their database. While that is being done the paper is also being checked against millions of documents available on the Internet, trying to discover if the student has stolen any words or ideas from uncited sources. Once this is finished turnitin.org creates an "originality report" which will tell the teacher or professor where the student has stolen their ideas or if they've plagiarized anything at all.

This check is usually completed within 24 hours.

So what are the consequences of plagiarism? Each school has its own honor code and its own policies for dealing with academic dishonesty. In some schools it can result in a failing grade on a paper or in a class, a suspension or even expulsion. The worst consequence is that, as a student, you will have missed a learning opportunity. The bottom line is that cheating won't help you achieve anything. If you aren't caught you'll still be missing the valuable learning material and experience that you'll need later in life. Should you be caught, you may be excluded from opportunities in the future because of your actions.

To avoid plagiarism, cite all the sources you have used while writing your paper. Your teacher will have a format for listing all the sources you have referred to. In the academic world it is always better to have too many sources than too few.

Vocabulary

quotation marks - " "

offense - something that is against the rules

scour - search

misguided - uninformed

potentially - possibly

sources - the books, newspaper or Internet

articles you get your information from

complex - difficult

cite - to recognize someone else's words or ideas

consequences - the results of your actions

database - a collection of computer documents stored in one place

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