

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Discussion

Work in pairs or small groups and answer the questions below.

'To keep in touch' - means to write, phone or visit friends or relatives regularly.

1. Do you 'keep in touch' with friends and family who are living in a different country?
2. Who do you 'keep in touch' with?
3. How often do you 'keep in touch'?
4. Which way do you 'keep in touch'?
- letter? - email? - telephone? -



5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each of these ways?

B: Vocabulary

Match the word with its meaning. Then use your dictionary to check your answers.

Words

1. If you are **reunited** with someone...
2. If **you** are **puzzled** about something...
3. A **dental surgery** is a place you go when...
4. If you **move out** ...
5. Your **identity** is...
6. If something is a **mystery**...

Meanings

- a. you want a person to check your teeth.
- b. **you** don't understand something.
- c. you meet again after a long time.
- d. it is something that strange that isn't understood.
- e. you change where you are living.
- f. who you are.

Reading Activities

A: Prediction

Look at the picture on the right. What do you think happens in today's article?



B: Reading Quickly

1. Look at today's article and underline all the words you studied from **Pre-Reading Activity B: Vocabulary**. Do this as quickly as you can.
2. Read the article quickly. (Don't use your dictionary.) Choose the sentence that gives the best summary of the article.
 - a. A man named Colin posted a postcard in Brisbane in 1889.
 - b. The post office is very slow.
 - c. It took 112 years for a postcard to be sent from Australia to Scotland.
 - d. 32 Carden Place, Aberdeen is now a dental surgery.

112-Year-Old Post Card to Fly Back to Australia

EDINBURGH Saturday February 24 (Reuters) - A postcard that took 112 years to get from Brisbane to Scotland will be sent back to Australia to be reunited with the granddaughter of the man who wrote it, the Post Office said this week.

The card was sent to a "Miss Wardrop" in Aberdeen from "Colin" on Jan. 4, 1889, but arrived in the Scottish city only this week.

"We have absolutely no idea where it's been," said Aberdeen postmaster Pete Smith.

Puzzled postmen found that 32 Carden Place, Aberdeen had since become a dental surgery and Miss Wardrop had moved out long ago.

The identity of the card's sender remained a mystery until Alison Britts, a 74-year-old from New South Wales, named him as her grandfather Colin Wardrop who had sent a New Year postcard home to his family more than a century ago.

The postcard will begin its return trip Monday and should arrive in Australia within four days.

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Aberdeen - A city in Scotland; Brisbane - A city in Australia.

C: Sequencing

Look at the sentences and try to number them in the order the events happened. (The first one is done for you as an example.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| | The postcard arrived in Scotland. |
| | Alison Britts named Colin as her grandfather. |
| | The postmen found that the address on the postcard was a dental surgery. |
| 1 | 'Colin' sent a postcard from Brisbane. |
| | The postcard will be sent back to Alison in Australia. |

D: True or False

Look at the sentences below and decide if they are true or false. If a sentence is false, correct it.

1. The postcard was sent from Brisbane to Aberdeen.
2. The postcard will be sent back to the grandson of the man who wrote it.
3. The postcard is 120 years old.
4. Colin is Alison's grandson.
5. 32 Carden Place, Aberdeen is now a doctor's surgery.
6. The postcard will be sent back to Australia.

E: Questions

Answer these questions.

1. Who sent the postcard?
2. Who was the postcard for?
3. When was the postcard sent?
4. When did it arrive in Aberdeen, Scotland?
5. Who is Alison Britts?
6. Where is the postcard being sent to?

F: What do you think?

Answer these questions in pairs.

1. Why do you think the postcard took so long to reach Scotland?
2. Where do you think the postcard was?
3. Have you heard stories of people receiving letters a long time after the letters were posted? What happened?

Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Reading in Detail

In today's article there were these words:

*"Alison Britts**named** him as her grandfather Colin...."*

(This means that Alison identified Colin and said he was her grandfather.)

Another way we use the word **name** as a verb is when we give someone a name, usually when they are born.

*Did your father **name** you? No, my grandfather did.*

(This means that the grandfather chose the child's name.)

We can also use the verb **name** with the preposition **after**. This means that someone is given the same name as someone else.

*I'm **named after** my Grandmother.*

(This means she has the same name as her grandmother.)

*My aunt is called Charlotte and my parents **named me after** her.*

(The girl and her aunt are both called Charlotte. The parents wanted their daughter to have her aunt's name.)

In pairs or small groups discuss the questions below.

1. Who named you?
2. How did they choose your name?
3. Are you named after someone or something?
4. Do you think you would name a son or daughter after someone? Why or why not?

B: Spelling Test

Listen to your teacher and write the words from today's article below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Now check your spelling in today's article.

Teachers' Notes and Answer Key follow this page



TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Pre-Reading Activities

B: Vocabulary - Answers

1. c; 2. b; 3. a; 4. e; 5. f; 6. d.

Reading Activities

B: Reading Quickly - Answer

2. c is the best answer.

C: Sequencing - Answers

1. 'Colin' sent a postcard from Brisbane.
2. The postcard arrived in Scotland.
3. The postmen found that the address on the postcard was a dental surgery.
4. Alison Britts named Colin as her grandfather.
5. The postcard will be sent back to Alison in Australia.

D: True or False - Answers

1. T
2. F - The postcard will be sent back to the granddaughter of the man who wrote it .
3. F - The postcard is 112 years old.
4. F - Colin is Alison's grandfather.
5. F - 32 Carden Place is a dental surgery.
6. T

E: Questions

1. Colin
2. Miss Wardrop
3. January 4, 1889
4. this week (February 24, 2001)
5. Colin's granddaughter
6. back to Australia

F: What do you think? - Notes

Answers will vary.

Post Reading Activities

B: Spelling Test (Words to be read aloud to students)

1. reunited
2. puzzled
3. identity
4. mystery
5. dental surgery
6. postcard

Please note: the lesson 'A Long Goodbye' in the Pre-Intermediate section of the Instant Lessons library focusses on another amazing story. (85 years after it was thrown into the sea, the goodbye message in a bottle was found.) the lesson 'Return to Sender' is also about a message in a bottle. (Forty-four years after it was thrown from a ship into the Indian Ocean, a bottle with a message has turned up in New Zealand, the new home of the author.)

