Read and Find out Me

Hi! My name is Daniel (though my friends call me Dan). I'm 14. I've got a Mum, a Dad, a brother, a sister, two aunts and two uncles, one grandmother and one grandfather who all live in Almaty. I'm the youngest. I think there are some advantages of being the youngest. Sometimes my brother tries to boss me around but it's OK because I can sit up late watching video with him or go off somewhere for the day with him.

My hobbies are sports and music. I would like to have a younger brother; I want to have someone to have fun with, someone to take out to football with me. My brother Mike doesn't always share my sense of humour and he doesn't have time to play chess with me. He spends too much time with his computer.

But I confide in my elder brother like a friend. I have confided in him about many problems. He's been through with the same, so he understands.

I think it's common with most young people to spend some time outdoors. It's important for us to meet, to talk about things, to walk around just "to see what's going on", to go to disco clubs. My elder brother is allowed more freedom than me. He can earn his pocket money by delivering newspapers 3 times a week. He usually gets enough to buy the records and CDs he wants without asking the permission from his parents. If I go out, my parents like to know where I'm going, who I'm with and what time I'm coming home. But that's fair enough.

As most teenagers I spend my after school hours at home watching TV or listening to music, or reading, or doing domestic chores or playing compu­ter games with my sister Liz. Liz is a student. She is going to be an economist.

On the whole I get on well with my sister Liz. Last year she bought a walkman for me on my birthday.

Of all my relatives best of all I like my Granny who is still fond of sports

My favourite sport

Hi! It's me again. There is plenty to do after school hours, particularly sport which I enjoy most. I love many sports but best of all football. Almost all my friends are in our football team. We train hard and we often play for the school in various regional youth tournaments. Our coach has taught us all rigid rales which must be strictly observed. The last game we played ended in a draw - 3:3. And though we know the famous Olimpic quotation "The most important thing is not to win, but to take part", we all want to win some day.

I do sport every day. After school on Mondays I go running with my friends for about an hour. Then I go to the swimming pool. Swimming is an excellent way to keep fit. It makes your legs and body strong.

Pele, the greatest footballer of all time, is my idol in football.

He became a world star at the age of only 17, when Brazil first won the World Cup in Sweden. He played in four World Cup competitions and scored over 1.200 goals in his career before finally retiring in 1977. In 1994 he be­came Brazilian Special Minister for Sport.

I'm happy that I have taken up sport. It helps me to become fit and I hope it will help to develop confidence, persistence, resposibility, and courage which ar^ most important qualities to become a personality. Besides sport gives you a sense of duty, a sense of collectivism and discipline. •

Sport in Kazakhstan and in My Life

Sport helps people to stay in a good shape, keeps them fit, healthy and makes them more organized, better disciplined in their daily activities and energetic.

Many sports are popular in Kazakhstan. They are: football, tennis, hockey, weight-lifting, track and field, basketball, volleyball, boxing, judo and carate, cross-country skiing, figure skating, climbing mountains, horse-racing.

All these sports have their strong supporters and fans. Thousands of peo­ple go to the stadium to support their favourite team and many thousands more watch the game on TV/ For many people sport is the main form of entertainment. The people in the Republic of Kazakhstan are not only sports fans. They take an active part in all sports and sports activities, professional and amateur.

There are different sporting societies and amateur clubs in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Some of them constantly take part in different international tournaments and are well-known all over the world.

Kazakhstan sportsmen have won a great number of world records in gymnastics, judo, wrestling, athletics.

International and national matches attract many fans. Some most impor­tant games and sport events are transmitted over the radio and TV.

My favourite kind of sport is tennis. I have been playing it since I was 11 years old.

Sport Stars

Sharron Davies was 13 when she first competed in the Olimpic Games. Britain's swimming star has won prizes since then. Our interviewer went to find out more about her.

— How old were you when you started swimming?

— I learnt to swim when I was six. When I was eleven I started swim­ming in the British Junior Team.

— Is swimming the most important thing in your life?

—Swimming is my life. I swim for three to five hours a day, six days a week. I'm often in the pool at 5.30 in the morning!

— What do you do when you're not swimming?

— I have my two dogs and two cats to look after. I don't like parties much, but I like going to the cinema.

— Why do you think swimming is such a good sport?

— Swimming is better than other sports because it exercises all the differ­ent parts of your body. But best of all, swimming is the only sport which teaches you how to save someone's life.

— What's been the best moment in your career?

— Winning the silver medal at the Olimpics has been the high point so far.

Hobbies

There are more than 1000 hobbies known in the world. It is impossible to ic scribe all of them.

A hobby is something to which a person chooses to give time and energy it. i which he is interested in. Hobbies differ like tastes.

If you have a hobby your life becomes more interesting. Hobbies increase : ur knowledge in some particular field and broaden your general outlook. Tr.ere are 4 large groups of hobbies: doing things, making things, collecting ұings and learning things. Gardening is one of the oldest hobbies. The English are very fond of gardening and growing flowers, especially roses.

Many grown-ups and children are fond of playing computer games now. I: is a new hobby but it is becoming more and more popular.

.Almost everyone collects something at some time in his/ her life: stamps, ; :ins, books, match-boxes, records, post-cards, toys, watches.

Some collections have no value, some others are so large and valuable ."..it they are kept in museums and galleries. Some people are interested in rnotography. They always take their cameras with them when they are on holiday. A usual hobby is collecting tape-recordings. You may have record­ings of operas, folk-music or jazz concerts.

It is difficult to describe all hobbies known in the world. The main thing is ұat they help you to obtain knowledge.

**The environment and you**

This text introduces you into the problem of environment. Some years ago this problem was widely discussed in the newspapers, radio and TV programmes in many countries of the world. Now we also have the same problem before us.

Why does this problem worry the people of the world?

The environment as it is known is all living and non-living things that surrround us. They are animals and birds, woods and forests, air and water, land and atmosphere. All this may be called natural living conditions and resources.

National resources such as minerals, oil, wood lands and water are widely used for purposes of home industry and agriculture. As a result the wide use of national resourses upsets the biological balance, pollutes air, water and soil. The people face the problem of the pollution of environment. Now it is be­coming clear as never before that our environment needs strong\_protection from harmful actions in home industry and agriculture. Most people under­stand that it is necessary to fight pollution of the environment. We all should try to do our best in order to make air, forests and soil cleaner than before.

It concerns everyone who lives in our country. We know that the policy of our state in environment protection is to control air and water pollution but at the same time we think that it cannot be done without everyone's help.

The Problem of Ecology

Many people are concerned about ecology today because it is of vital importance for humanity. Everybody is talking about pollution nowadays: land pollution, water pollution, air pollution. The things we eat, the places we live in and the air around us are made dirty and unhealthy by machines and factories. Pollution is the result of indusrialization and it threatens everything living: plants, animals, people. It is dangerous for life.

Pollution deprives people of fresh air, clear water and healthy food. The examples are numerous: the waters of the Aral Sea are polluted and it became much less than some years ago, the Caspian sea becomes smaller too, people from Semey suffer from radioactivity.

International cooperation of scientists in enviromental protection has already begun its work. People demand to stop bomb testing and arms race. They want to protect their future.

Christmas

For many British families Christmas is the most important holiday. Chistmas is celebrated in Great Britain on the 25-th of December. Christmas is a reUgious holiday and one of the happiest holidays of the year, because it is the day that Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

People prepare for Christmas weeks before: they buy gifts for their families and friends, choose fur-trees and decorate them with ornaments, coloured paper, holly and Ughts, different toys and candles.

There are a lot of traditions connected with Christmas but perhaps the most important one is Christmas presents. Children wait for Santa Ciaus who

8 5

comes to every house and brings presents. Going to bed children leave their stockings and shoes to receive presents the next morning.

There are a lot of jokes and fun on Christmas day. Young people like to spend it together in good companies. Family members sit down to a big turkey dinner followed by Christmas pudding and Christmas cake. Later in the afternoon they will watch the Queen on TV as she delivers her traditional message to the U.K. and the Commonwealth.

People wish each other a "Merry Christmas!"

Nauryz

Kazakhstan has many different customs and traditions. The most impor­tant Kazakh holiday of the year is "Nauryz" — the Kazakh New Year.

On March 22-nd people from smaller villages come to bigger cities. Families get together to help one another on consructing a "yurt" which is the traditional Kazakh home. Since the Kazakhs were originally nomadic people they had homes that could be easily set up and moved from one place to another. These yurts are made of long curved pieces of wood that are tied together and make the skeleton for this round house. Large pieces of felt are placed over the wood and rugs are placed inside the yourt on the floor to keep warmth and protect from cold and rain.

If you enter a yurt on Nauryz you will see that it is decorated with beauti­ful Kazakh ornaments, rugs and blankets.

Kazakhstan

The Republic of Kazakhstan is situated in the Central Asia. The area of Kazakhstan is 2753000 square kilometres. Its population is about 16 million. The population lives mostly in towns and cities and large villages. The largest cities are Almaty, Karaganda, Shimkent, Pavlodar and Astana. Astana is the capital of the Republic. Astana is sutuated in the central part of the country.

Kazakh is the official language of the country, but it is not the only lan­guage which people speak in the country. Russian and other languages are spoken here too.

Kazakhstan is the largest state in the Central Asia. It extends some 1900 kilometres from the Volga River in the West to the Altai Mountains in the East and about 1300 kilometres from the Siberia plain in the North to the Central Asia deserts in the South. Kazakhstan borders China, Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kirgizia. There is a long border coast line on the Caspian sea in the Southwest.

There are a few rivers and lakes in Kazakhstan. The four rivers are the main resources of water in the country. They are Irtish, in the east, Syr-Darya in the southwest, Illi in the southeast and Ural in the northwest of the country. The largest lakes are Balhash, Zaisan, Ala-Kol and Tengis. The flora and fauna of the country are different. They depend on the climate of the area. They are richer in the south and poorer in the north.

The climate of the country is strongly continental. It is cold in winter and hot in summer. Rain usually falls in spring and autumn. Snow falls in all areas but not at the same time.

London

London is the capital of Great Britain, its political, economic and cultural centre. It is one of the largest cities in the world and the largest city in Eu­rope. Its population is about 8 million people.

London is situated on the both banks of the River Thames. Today in its full extent Greater London covers 625 square miles. Traditionally London is di­vided into several parts: the City, Westminster, the West End and the East End. They are rather different from one another. The City is the heart of London. Numerous banks, offices and firms are situated there. It is the financial centre of the UK, with many banks, offices and the Stock Exchange. But the City is also a market for goods from all parts of the world. The City extends over an area of about 2,6 square kilometres. About half a milHon people work there, but less than 6 thousand live there.

Westminster is the historic centre of government. The West End is the richest and most beautiful part of London. The best hotels, shops, restaurants and theatres are situated there. There are beautiful houses and gardens be­longing to the wealthy people. Oxford street in the West End is the endless shopping area which attracts visitors from all over the world.

The East End is the poorest part of London. There are a lot of factories and docks here. The port of London is also in the East End. The streets in the East End are narrow, the buildings are not attractive. The East End is popu­lated by working class famiUes.

Travelling

There are many ways of travelling. The whole world is open for travel­ling. Now you can choose any place on the earth and go there on your busi­ness or holiday. Certainly you should have enough money to go to the place which you have chosen.

You can go to the place by sea, by air, by train and by bus. If you want to get somewhere as quickly as possible the best way is to travel by plane. We know that travelling by plane is very expensive but most of our people are not rich. They spend their holidays in the places which are not too expensive and where they can rest and improve their health. There are such places in many parts of our country.

Coach tours are not very expensive. They are planned as holidays. If you choose this kind of travelling you will have a chance to do a lot of sightseeings and have a good rest at the same time. During a ten-day holiday you can visit many cities and places of interest.

Many people prefer travelling by car. This way you can visit the nearby towns and cities. The greatest advantage of this way of travelling is that you can stop whenever you like and stay there as long as you want. You start from your own front door and take any road you like. Before starting your travel you have to study the map of roads, hotels and other things.

One of the cheapest and most popular ways of travelling is hiking. You certainly need to prepare all things which will be necessary for travelling. It is

Astana

Astana (the former Akmola) was founded in 1830 as a fortification of Russian Empire. In 1862 stanitsa Ak-mola got the status of a town. In the course of time Akmola became the centre of trade fairs where merchants from all over Kazakhstan, Russia, Central Asia, India and other countries gathered to sell cattle and agricultural products. For a long time Akmola was an outpost of Russian Empire seeking the way to develop trade and its politi­cal influence upon Central Asia in XVIII—XIX centuries. With the growth of anti - tsarist and revolutionary public mood the Akmola prison became overcrowed with those who wanted freedom. In March 1917 the Soviet Power was established in Akmola.

Many changes have taken place since then. Akmola played an important role in supplying the Soviet Army with raw materials and products during the Second World War. In 1961 Akmola was renamed into Tselinograd and be­came the centre of Tselinny Krai. In 1992 the city got its name Akmola again and since October 1997 Akmola has become a new capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Later on it got its present name Astana. Astana is a modern growing city, apolitical, financial, economic, scientific and socio-cultural cen­tre of the state. There are a lot of magnificent beautiful buildings, higher educational estabUshments, colleges and secondary schools, hotels, banks and other commercial structures in Astana, the new capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan. There are many places of interest in Astana: the Central Square the Republic Avenue, the Palace of Youth and the Bridge across the Ishim River, the Reginal Museum of Fine Arts and others. From everywhere you can see Baiterek, the symbol of prosperity and happiness.

A letter from an English girl

Dear friends,

I'm writing this letter from England. My name is Nell Smith. I'm thirteen years old. I go to a secondary comprehensive school. It is a very large school. In our country there are many schools where boys and girls study together, but there are also some 'boys' schools and some girls' schools.

Our school is very large and we have very many teachers and pupils. We have a headmistress, a deputy head, more than thirty teachers and about a thousand pupils. As it is a comprehensive school there are many academic and non-academic subjects. You may choose even such subjects as nursing and housekeeping.

We go to school five days a week, from Monday to Friday. On Saturday and Sunday we have a holiday. I get to school at 8.45 and start my lessons at 9 o'clock. We have five lessons in the morning: two before break (in which we drink our milk) and three after break. After our lunch we have two more lessons. School ends at 3.40 and I usually go home.

When I get home I start doing my homework. At school I learn thirteen subjects: English, Mathematics, French, German, Science, history, geography, needlework, art, games, physical training, music and religious instruction.

Ending my letter I would like to ask you some questions. Do schools in Kazakhstan differ greatly from our comprehensive school? Do boys and girls study together or in separate schools? What subjects are taught at your school? How many subjects do you study? What is your school day like? Is it differ­ent from our school day? Please, write to me about your school.

Education for the 21st Century

English saying

The 20th century is over. The 21st century has just started. We are living in a new century. Now it is time to think about the future of education.

; Today it is clear for everyone that we are moving towards the changes in many sectors of life and education^ It is a well known fact that the develop­ment of the nation, its prosperity and wealth depend on the people's educa­tion. [\Most](file:///Most) people understand that education needs changes. What kinds of changes are needed? Who is responsible for realizing these changes? The question is not easy to answer. .

We know that the government of the country has a programme of reform­ing the system of education in our Republic and it is responsible for the imple­mentation of the reform programme.

; The top priority in the government actions is certainly basic education which is compulsory for all children: The main purpose of compulsory educa­tion is to involve all children into schools, but this is not the only task of the educational reform. The changes of content, curricula and methods of teach­ing and learning are also planned. The reform presupposes to computerize the process of teaching and learning J Some steps have already been taken in this direction] about 3000 class-rooms in the country have already been com­puterized! Computerized teaching and learning can help to create the system of life - long education for everybody.

Computers, as is generally known, can send and receive information elec­tronically; electronics becomes a very important tool of instruction. In the nearest future electronics will be used in distance education. Distance educa­tion takes place when a teacher and students (pupils) are separated by physi­cal distance. This kind of education gives an opportunity for people of all ages to improve their education, to get new professional skills, and develop their abiUties and talents.

Life — long learning is the future of education for the 21st century. And if you ask what everyone must learn in future we shall tell you: Learn to know, learn to do, learn to live together and learn to be; these four pillars should be the foundation for any educational vision in the 21st century'.