

For Queen and Country

TRUE / FALSE QUESTIONS

1. This is the story of how one and a half thousand soldiers from eight regiments of the British Army create a great military ceremony

True / False

2. "Excellent" is the only acceptable standard

True / False

3. Almost everyone has to be absolutely perfect

True / False

4. Mistakes will be forgiven

True / False

5. This year the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards is in the spotlight

True / False

6. They will have the honour of leading the Queen

True / False

7. The best description of the event is "disorganised chaos"

True / False

8. They have very little time to prepare

True / False

BBC NEWS

MAGAZINE

30 May 2012 Last updated at 00:41 GMT

London, France's sixth biggest city

By Lucy Ash
BBC News

More French people live in London than in Bordeaux, Nantes or Strasbourg and some now regard it as France's sixth biggest city in terms of population. What is attracting a new generation of young French professionals to the city?

On a wet Friday night in Hackney, a group of young professional women walk into a pub. Laughing about the British weather, they shake their umbrellas, peel off their raincoats and make their way to the bar.

Like many Londoners at the end of a busy working week, they have come to unwind over a few drinks.

But if you move a bit closer, you realise they are all speaking French. They are not tourists, exchange students or off-duty au pairs. They all work in creative industries, have lived in east London quite some time and consider it home.

London has a long-standing French community - but it is no longer confined to the streets around the embassy in South Kensington, where you will find French bookshops, patisseries and pavement cafes patronised by impeccably dressed mothers dropping off their children at the posh Lycee Francais Charles de Gaulle.

Today there are French people in every corner of London and their numbers have been growing, with the result that in next week's parliamentary election in France they - along with expats in Scandinavia - will be voting for a candidate to represent them in the National Assembly.

The French consulate in London estimates between 300,000 and 400,000 French citizens live in the British capital - many in London's cutting-edge creative hub, in the East End.

"I came to London from Paris straight after graduating from art school, just to have a look," says Malika Favre. "That was seven years ago and I've no intention of going back."

Malika is much in-demand as an illustrator. Her commissions include a bold, playful design for a new edition of the Kama Sutra, an album cover for a French rock band and artwork for a Californian beachwear company.

Being in London and speaking English gives her access to a wider client base - Malika sees the city as a gateway to globalisation and also relishes freedom from French bureaucracy.

"With a new venture in Paris you always think first of what is going to go wrong. I find the system much easier here - you don't have so many rules and so much paperwork," she tells me.

Marine Schepens, who works for a fashionable advertising agency, says UK companies are more prepared to give young people a chance because it is easier to terminate their contracts than in France.

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This fluidity makes employees less risk-averse too.

"I changed careers a year ago but I would have never done that if I was still in France. I'd have thought, 'I'm so lucky to have a job - I must hang on to it.'"

Nadege Alezine, a journalist from Bordeaux, says life in London is not for the faint hearted. She runs a website aimed at the French community called bealondoner.com

"If you want security and nice holidays you stay in France. If you crave adventure and want to get new skills, you come here," she says.

That is not to say she does not miss France. Sipping her drink, she sighs.

"Life in France was easy. You know, good food and wine. I lived near the sea and not far from the ski slopes. And sometimes when London's grey and rainy I think, 'What on earth am I doing here?'"

All the young women I met complained about London's overpriced property. London rents are twice those in Paris.

"In Brick Lane, we had bedbugs and rats," says Malika, "and for the same money I paid for one room, friends back home had their own flats."

Of course, many people living in London have it far worse, but by choosing the East End Malika and her friends are following in the footsteps of her compatriots centuries ago.

The French first came en masse to the East End in the 17th Century. These Huguenots, who had endured years of persecution in France because of their Protestant faith, were offered sanctuary here by King Charles II.

They called their flight Le Refuge - coining the word refugee.

Many settled east of the City of London, where food and housing were cheaper. There are many French street names around nearby Spitalfields Market such as Fournier Street, Fleur de Lys Street and Nantes Passage.

The Huguenots were skilled craftsmen but some feared that they were depriving Londoners of work. A protectionist priest, a certain Dr Welton, called them "the offal of the earth".

Today competition for jobs is intense, especially among the young, and cross-channel migrants are not always welcomed with open arms.

Recently the French consulate commissioned a report called The Forgotten People of St Pancras. It focuses on the young French who arrive in London on a one-way ticket and sometimes find themselves in desperate straits.

The Centre Charles Peguy, a French charity in Shoreditch, helps new arrivals to find work and a place to live.

Cedric Pretat, one of the advisers, says the numbers have shot up this summer.

"Many French people imagine that because of the Olympics, lots of new jobs have been created in London which is not true. But people arrive with this dream."

He adds: "Others are escaping from things in France such as family problems, educational problems and areas like Department 93, because people who live in that part of Paris sometimes have trouble finding a job."

Department 93 is shorthand for Seine Saint Denis, just north of Paris - the French suburb which is home to many French nationals of African origin and a large immigrant population.

To the average French person, it conjures up images of riots, bleak high rises, youth unemployment and racism. It is the most-discriminated-against postcode in France, although ethnic minorities from other suburbs have also had a tough time.

Hamid Senni, a business consultant based in London, was one of eight children born to Moroccan immigrants in the south of France. A well-meaning teacher at his school suggested he change his name to Lionel.

"Because of your name you will be discriminated against, because of your skin colour, and even the address on your CV can stop you from getting a job," he says.

"As for your skills and competencies - none of that counts in France if you don't fit in the box - so I left," he adds.

Hamid now advises many French companies on how to diversify their workforce and he lectures at Sciences Po, one of the country's most prestigious universities.

But he says that in the early days it was much easier to get someone to pick up the phone, if he called from London than from Paris.

I first met him five years ago when he had just written a book. It was called *De la Cite a la City* and focused on his journey from a rundown suburban estate (Cite) in Valence to London's booming financial district.

Hamid suspects the success of the far right in the first round of the recent presidential elections, the highest share of the vote ever achieved by the Front National in a nationwide poll, might have pushed more young French people across the channel.

"France is really struggling to create jobs and things have got worse because some people are saying the whites should come first," he says.

Cleo Soazandry, another young French national with African roots, has a mother from Madagascar and a father from Guinea. Her parents met in France where Cleo was born. In her early teens, the family moved from Paris to London.

"I was really pushed by my teachers here," she says. "Suddenly I realised I could actually become somebody here, be ambitious."

Cleo adds that seeing black presenters on television made a deep impression on her as there were virtually none in France at the time.

"It's like my eyes opened up when I came here - I think the American dream is also present here in the UK."

Listen to [The French East End](#) on [BBC Radio 4](#) on Wednesday, 30 May at 11:00 BST and listen again via the [Radio 4 website](#).



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MUTI-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Read the article "London, France's sixth biggest city"

and answer the following questions by selecting the best single response.

1. The French community in London is
 - a) very small
 - ☒ b) mostly composed of students and tourists
 - c) of long standing
2. At the time of writing, French residents in London
 - a) will be voting for a representative in Scandinavia
 - b) are more numerous than the populations of Bordeaux, Nantes or Strasbourg
 - ☒ c) probably number between 300,000 and 400,000
3. Malika Favre lives in London
 - a) because she likes art
 - b) because she likes the Karma Sutra
 - ☒ c) because it is good for her career
4. Marine Schepens believes that
 - a) if she stayed in France she never would have changed careers
 - b) if she stayed in France she would have changed careers
 - c) if she stayed in France she might have changed her career
5. The French first came to London
 - a) to escape the Huguenots
 - b) to escape King Charles II
 - ☒ c) in the 17th Century
6. Cleo Soazandry
 - a) wants to be a television newsreader
 - ☒ b) was really pushed by her teachers
 - c) believes that the American dream is British

7. Hamid Senni

- a) Used to teach at Sciences-po before moving to London
- b) teaches at Sciences-po
- c) studies at Sciences-po

8. Cleo Soazandry

- a) has a mother from Madagascar and a father from Guinea
- b) has a father from Madagascar and a mother from Guinea
- c) is an African national with French

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Updated: September 06, 2011 21:54 IST

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A small town in Britain famous for public sex

Sarah Lyall, New York Times, Updated: October 08, 2010 10:27 IST

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Puttenham, England: There was the man they called "Bob the Builder," who wore only a hard hat. There was the naked sunbather who remarked, "Nice day for it, isn't it?" to a woman taking a walk. And there was the moment, Jules Perkins said, when the dizzying array of sexual forces that have somehow descended on her blameless Surrey village came together all at once, like a scene from a one-size-fits-all X-rated film.

"There were two blokes sitting side by side, watching a man and a woman having sex," Ms. Perkins said, describing what happened as she strolled with her dog on the hill between her house and the Hog's Back ridge.

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"Nearby, there were two men sunbathing together, wearing nothing but tight little white underpants."

Later, she found a pink vibrator in the bushes.

"I gave it to the police," she said. "They said, 'What should we do with it?' I said, 'Put it in Lost Property.'"

Puttenham, about an hour's drive from London, has fewer than 2,500 residents and is famous for its ancient church; its friendly pub, the Good Intent; and its proud inclusion in both the Domesday Book -- an 11th-century survey of English lands -- and "Brave New World."

Unhappily for many people here, it is also famous for being featured on lists of good places to go "dogging" -- that is, to have sex in public, sometimes with partners you have just met online, so that others can watch. So popular is the woodsy field below the ridge as a spot for gay sex (mostly during the day) and heterosexual sex (mostly at night) that the police have designated it a "public sex environment."

Public sex is a popular -- and quasi-legal -- activity in Britain, according to the authorities and to the large number of Web sites that promote it. (It is treated as a crime only if someone witnesses it, is offended and is willing to make a formal complaint.) And the police tend to tread lightly in public sex environments, in part because of the bitter legacy of the time when gay sex was illegal and closeted men having anonymous sex in places like public bathrooms were routinely arrested and humiliated.

Enthusiasts' Web sites alert practitioners to known dogging locations -- more than 100 in Surrey alone -- and offer handy etiquette tips for the confused or overly excited.

"Only join in or move closer if you are asked," advises one site, Swinging Heaven, which says it has more than one million registered members.

Richard Byrne, a senior lecturer in countryside management at Harper Adams University College in Shropshire, said that modern technology has made dogging much more convenient than it used to be, thanks to search engines, Facebook groups and people tweeting about their experiences. "And of course, everybody's got mobiles," he said.

Swinging Heaven says that the practice began in Britain in the 1970s, and that the term comes from the phenomenon of voyeurs "doggedly" following people having sex. Others say that practitioners claim to be "walking the dog" when they are, in fact, going out to meet naked strangers in fields.

Britons are a tolerant bunch, and most probably would not care who watched whom doing what in whatever configuration, as long as they all went somewhere else. Why, Puttenham residents wonder, do they have to do it 400 yards from the village nursery school?"

"We have nothing against gays or whoever it is up there," said Lydia Paterson, who lives here. "It's just the principle of, 'What on earth is going on?'"

A stroll through the field the other day unearthed no doggers (it was raining) but revealed much evidence of their existence. Debris -- used condoms, things made of rubber, pages torn from pornographic magazines, snack wrappers, discarded tea cups -- littered the area. The paths were dotted with black mats that people had conveniently left behind for the next time.

Residents have been pressing the authorities to do something, arguing that the government should simply close the rest stop that provides access to the offending field, just off the busy A31 road. That way, people hoping to have sex would have nowhere to park.

But local government officials refused, saying closing it would unfairly penalize motorists who genuinely wanted just to rest and would deprive the owner of the Hog's Back cafe, also at the rest stop, of his livelihood.

(Pic on Left: The lay-by on the A31 that is a popular haunt of Doggers and people cruising for sex; Pic on Right: A mat used by people having sex in a field adjacent to the lay-by on the A31 next to the village of Puttenham)

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TRUE / FALSE QUESTIONS

Read the article, "A small town in Britain famous for public sex" and answer the following questions.

1. "Bob the Builder" got his name because of his job

True / False

2. Puttenham is famous for X-rated films

True / False

3. Puttenham is mentioned in both the "Doomsday Book" and "Brave New World"

True / False

4. "Dogging" is local slang for having sex in public

True / False

5. Public sex is illegal in Britain

True / False

6. "Swinging Heaven" is a night club

True / False

7. Britons are usually a tolerant bunch

True / False

8. Local government wants to close down the Hog's Back cafe

True / False

PUTTENHAM, ENGLAND.

Read the article "Nice day for it – meet you in Puttenham" and answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. What is the subject of the article?

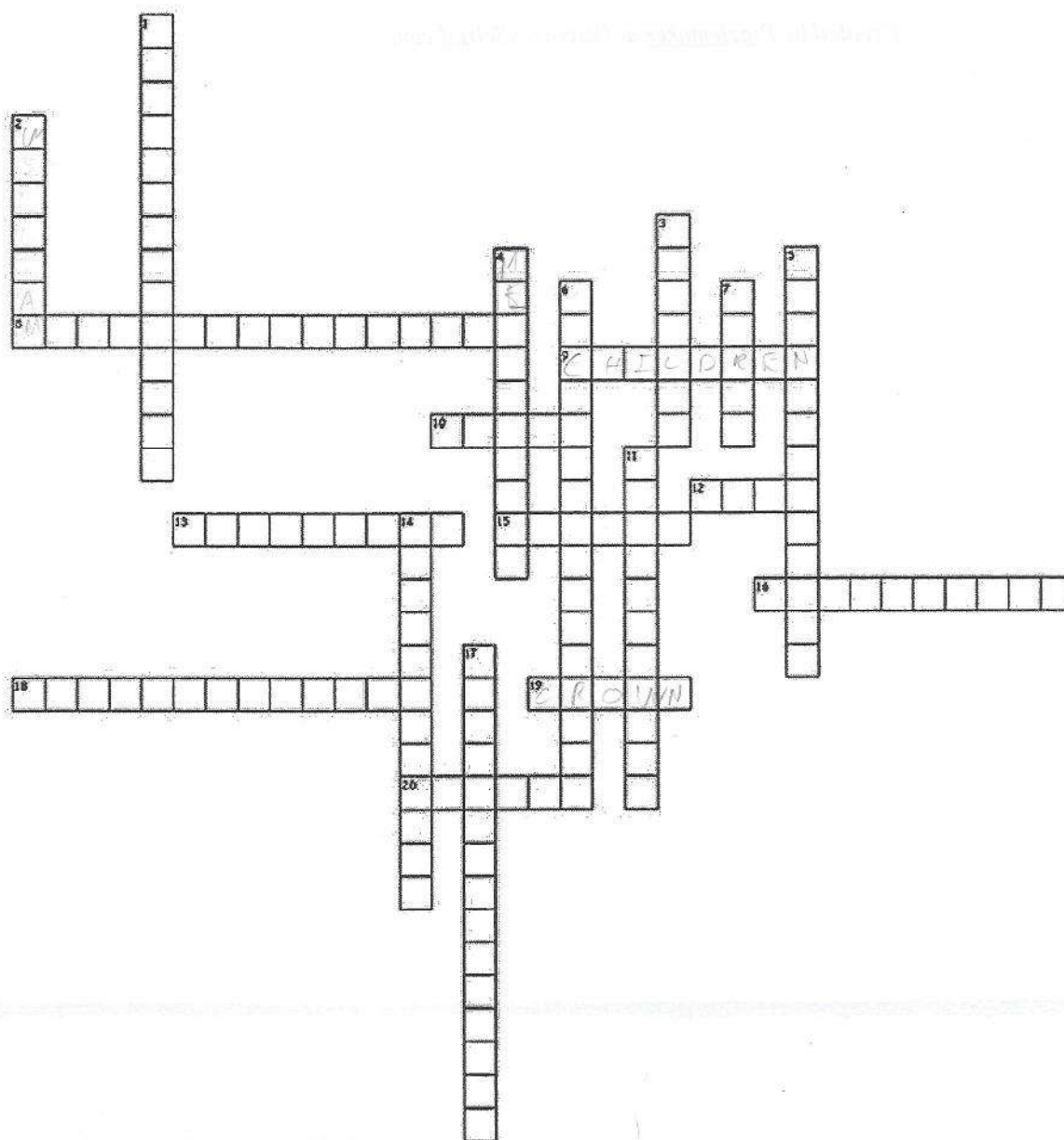
Sex in public

2. What was the Domesday Book and "brave new World" and why are they famous?

3. What is "dogging" and why is it an issue in Puttenham?

4. How has the internet contributed to "dogging" activity?

5. In what ways could "dogging" be considered a British tradition?

BACK TO :**About the United Kingdom - a webquest****About the United Kingdom - A crossword****Across →**

8. She was a prime minister. (2 words)
9. Prince Charles has got 2.
10. Charles's first wife.
12. The Greek god of love.
13. It has 3 crosses. (2 words)
15. Napoleon's enemy.
16. They work in a famous tower.
18. Tony Blair is one. (2 words)
19. On special occasions, the Queen has one

Down ↓

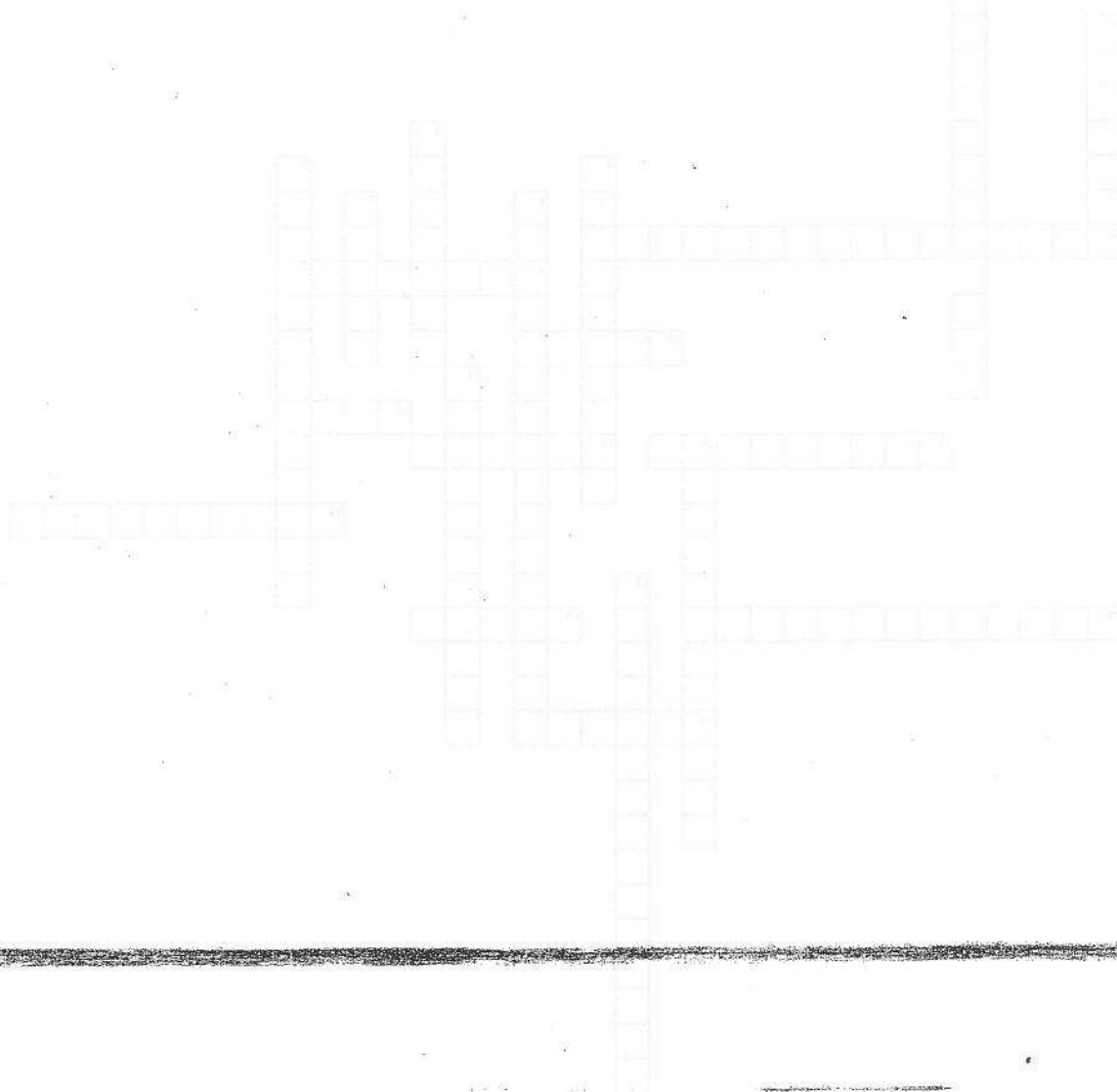
1. Prince Philip's wife. (2 words)
2. Guillaume in English.
3. Prince of Wales.
4. It has 2 houses.
5. The British prime minister lives there. (2 words)
6. You can go shopping there. (2 words)
7. He wants to go to Irak.
11. You can see them in the Tower of London. (2 words)

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on her head.
20. A river in London.

14. Churchill was in that Party.
17. The British sing it. (4 words)

Created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoverySchool.com



Miles, pints and pounds to go on forever

David Charter | December 17, 2008

Article from: The Times

The mile will go on for ever after the European Parliament voted yesterday to allow Britain to keep its traditional measurements, after years of trying to impose the metric system.

The decision will also safeguard the pint and ounce, despite a behind-the-scenes attempt led by France and Germany to set a deadline for their replacement, The Times understands.

In a victory for Britain's "metric martyrs" - traders who were prepared to go to court to keep traditional weights and measures - it means that the phase-out of the imperial system, due next year, will be put off indefinitely. It will allow traders to sell items by the pound and ounce provided that they also display the metric equivalent.

The EU climbdown was first indicated last year by the European Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, Gunter Verheugen, who called the metric movement "a pointless battle" against British culture. But The Times has learnt that in detailed discussions at ambassadorial level this year, Germany, France, Estonia and Austria tried to keep a timetable for imperial measures to be scrapped.

British campaigners argued that the continual assault on traditional ways of doing things was bad for business and that imperial measures made it easier for British exporters to trade with the US market. In the end the four countries backed down because they could not raise enough support against the argument among other EU member states, leading to the deal agreed yesterday (Tuesday) by MEPs.

The Government and the Conservatives were both keen to claim the credit for the decision in Strasbourg.

John Denham, the Innovation, Universities and Skills Secretary, who is responsible for national weights and measures, said: "People in Britain like their pint and their mile. They should be able to use the measures they are most familiar with. We made strong arguments for the right to carry on using pints and miles and maintaining dual metric and imperial labelling."

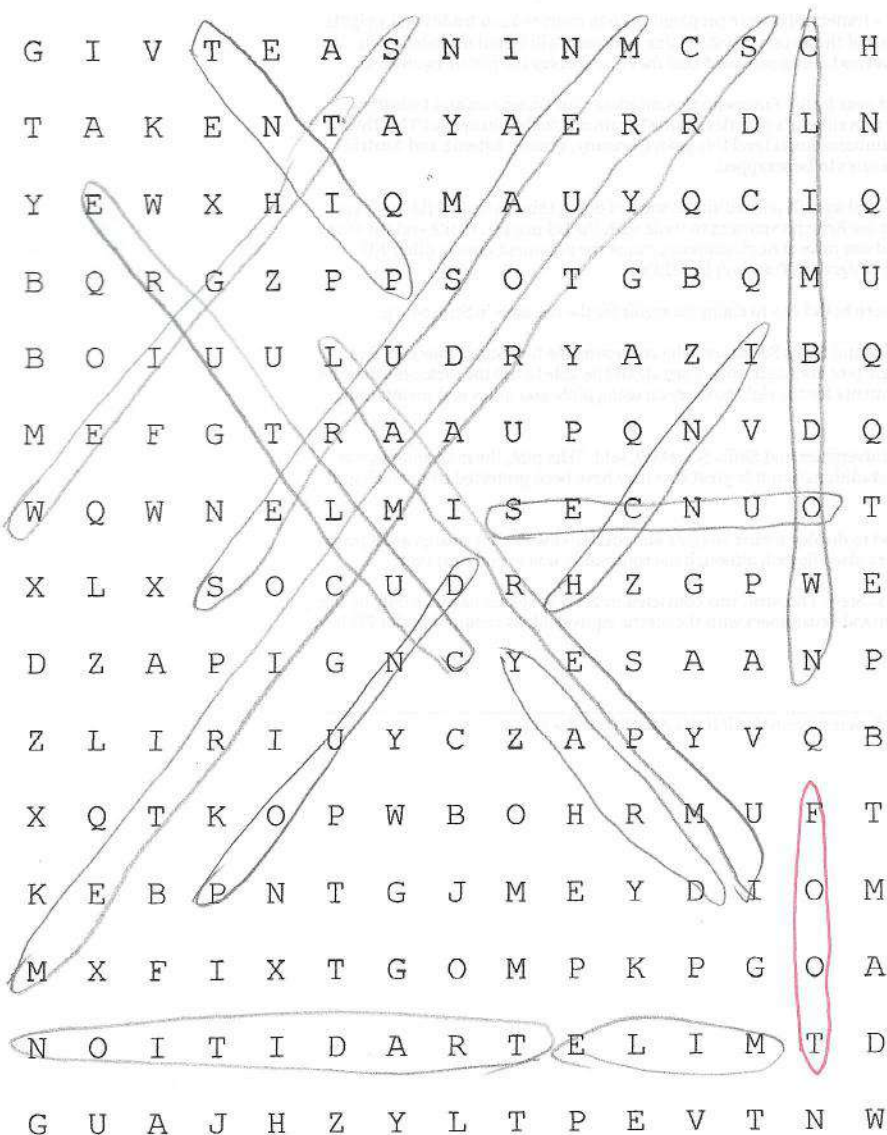
David Willetts, the Shadow Innovation, Universities and Skills Secretary, said: "The pint, the mile and pounds and ounces are part of our country's rich traditions and it is great that they have been protected from an absurd attempt by the EU to get rid of them."

Since 1995, goods sold in Europe have had to display metric weights and measurements. But to appease a public outcry in the UK, imperial indications were also allowed, although the concession was to end next year.

The most prominent of the metric martyrs, Steve Thoburn, was convicted in 2001 of selling bananas only by the pound. His offence was that he failed to provide customers with the metric equivalent, as required under EU law. He died in 2004.

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Measure up



CLIMBDOWN

IMPERIAL

METRIC-MARTYRS

PINT

WEIGHTS

CULTURE

INCH

MILE

POUND

YARD

FOOT

MEASURES

OUNCES

TRADITION

GIVE AN INCH TAKE A YARD

14 of 14 words were placed into the puzzle.

Solution

220

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AdChoices

ABOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM

- What is the name of the flag of the United Kingdom ?

.....

It is made up of 3 crosses :

- St Andrew's for

- St George's for

- St Patrick's for



- What creature can you see on the Welsh flag ?

.....

- What is the title of the National Anthem ?

.....

FAMOUS BRITISH POLITICIANS

What is the name of the man on the photo ?

.....



What is extraordinary about Margaret Thatcher ?

.....

Give the dates :

from

.....to.....

Who was the Prime Minister from 1990 to 1997 ?

.....



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Who is Gordon Brown ?...

What is the address of the Government in London ?

THE MONARCHY



What was Henry VIII, Mary I and Elizabeth I's family name ?

Where does the coronation of a king or a queen take place ?

Who conducts the service ?

In what year did Queen Elizabeth's coronation take place ?



What is Trooping the Colour ?

What does it celebrate ?

When does it take place ?

What is the name of the official London Residence of the Queen ?



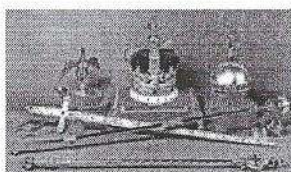
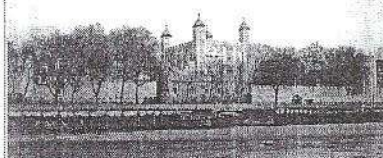
What happened in Windsor Castle on 20 November 1992 ?

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THE CROWN JEWELS

Where can you see them ?



Click on the picture.

Circle the jewels you can see :

earrings - a sceptre -
a necklace - a sword -
a crown - bracelets - an orb

THE ROYAL FAMILY

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Is she Elizabeth I, II or III ?

When was she born ?

How old is she today ?

What is her husband's name ?

How many children have they got ?

Write their names :



HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

Who was she ?

How old was she when she died on 30th March 2002 ?

224



The PRINCE of WALES

What is his first name ?

.....

Who did he marry in 1981 ?

.....

Where ?

.....

When, where and how did she die ?

.....

How many children did they have ?

.....

Write their names and their ages :

.....



Whose son is PRINCE WILLIAM ?

.....

What are his favourite sports ?

.....

Is he first in line to the British Throne ?

.....

What is the name of
Prince William's brother ?

.....

What are his hobbies ?

.....



Who is in line to the throne?

.....

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