A trip in the green land

READING

13 ES Read the text and answer the questions.

NEWGRANGE: A FASCINATING MYSTERY

Newgrange is one of the best examples in Western Europe of a type of megalithic monument known as a passage-tomb and it is the most visited archaeological site in Ireland. The name "Newgrange" is relatively modern: the area around Newgrange was once part of the lands the monks of Mellifont Abbey owned and farmed and they called it "grange". The complex includes the temples of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth and it is situated in County Meath. It dates back to around 3,200BC: this makes it more than 600 years older than the Giza Pyramids in Egypt, and 1,000 years more ancient than Stonehenge. It lay hidden until 1699, when some workmen, looking for some stones, discovered the entrance to the tomb. However it was under the supervision of Professor Michael J. O'Kelly, Department of Archaeology, University of Cork, that the excavations and restoration of Newgrange started in 1962 and ended in 1975. In Newgrange temple, at dawn on the shortest day of the year, the Winter Solstice, a narrow ray of sunlight illuminates the floor of the chamber at the end of the long passageway for a very short time. The sun enters through a special opening, directly above the main entrance. To experience the real phenomenon on the morning of the Winter Solstice inside Newgrange people need to enter a lottery to win tickets for the tomb. There are 100 winners every year. Currently, people needn't win the lottery. They can watch the solstice live via webcast on December 21st in the morning. Because of the splendour and magnificence of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth, these temples could be places of astrological, religious or ceremonial importance. The debate about the original use of them still creates lively discussion. In 1993 UNESCO designated the complex a World Heritage Site.

hide = nascondere
dawn = alba
debate = dibattito

1. What is "Newgrange"?
2. Where does its name come from?
3. Where is it?
4. When does it date back to?
5. Who discovered the entrance to the tomb in 1699?
6. Who is Michael J. O'Kelly?
7. What happens on the Winter Solstice day?
8. What do people need to do to see the real phenomenon?
9. What were the uses of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth?
10. What organization designated the sites a World Heritage Site?

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WRITING

14 K Use your answers to the questions of exercise 13 to write a summary of the text *Newgrange: a fascinating mystery*.

LISTENING AND READING

A TOUR IN DUBLIN

15 K 2.27 Listen to Hugh and his family. Then, read the following information about Dublin guided walking tours. Which tour is the most appropriate for each member of Hugh's family?

1. Traditional Irish Musical Pub Crawl – Experience the musical tradition of Dublin's pubs on this tour led by two professional musicians. Tours assemble at St. John Pub, Fleet St. For tickets, book in advance at the Dublin Tourism Office.

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2. Angel Tours of Dublin – Two different guided walking tours: *The Heart Of Dublin*, an introduction to the city and its Viking and medieval past, and *Ulysses Special*, a full-day tour designed for Joyce lovers. Tours assemble at The Spire on O'Connell St. Call ahead for reservations.

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3. Pat Liddy's Walking Tours of Dublin – Walk around Dublin with Pat Liddy, a well-known Dublin historian. Pat offers two different walks – Georgian & Victorian Dublin and Castle & Cathedrals. Each tour reveals little-known facts and stories about Dublin. Tours depart from the Dublin Tourism Office.

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SPOKEN INTERACTION

SPEAKING CARD

STUDENT A

16 K T Work in pairs (*Card B* on p. 126). One of you has got some information about Trinity College. The other has got some information about St Patrick's Cathedral. In turn, ask and answer, using the prompts beside.

Trinity College is the old university founded by Elizabeth I in 1592. The Old Library contains 2,500,000 printed books and about 3,000 manuscripts.

1. What / St Patrick's Cathedral? .....
2. When / built? .....
3. Who / buried? .....
4. What / write? .....

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