

A different world

WORKSHEET A

Exercise 1

Can you fill in the blanks below?

One hundred years ago, in 1911, the world was a very different place. The ship (1) T _ _ _ _ _ was launched in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on May 31 (and less than a year later, in April, 1912, would sink in the north Atlantic after hitting an iceberg, with the loss of more than 1,500 lives); the first (2) b _ _ _ _ to be dropped from an aircraft (small handheld ones) were dropped on November 1 over what is now Libya, by the Italian pilot of an early propeller-driven aircraft during the “Libyan War” between Italy and Turkey; and a Norwegian named Roald Amundsen led the first five-man Antarctic expedition to the (3) S _ _ _ _ P _ _ _ , reaching their destination on December 14.

It goes without saying that life in 1911 was very different from today. Much of the technology that would have a big impact on people’s lives in the 20th century did not yet exist: (4) t _ l _ _ _ s _ _ n and jet engines are just two examples. Motor (5) c _ _ s and (6) r _ d _ _ (or “wireless telegraphy,” as it was called then) had been invented, but the former were a rare sight outside major cities and the latter was still unknown to most people. As for the (7) t _ l _ _ _ _ e, hardly any homes had one, even in the most developed countries.

In 1911, there were also far fewer people: the global population was around 1.8 billion, in comparison with more than 6.9 billion today. The world’s most populous city was (8) _ _ _ _ _ n, Britain, with around 7 million people; today it is (9) _ _ _ _ o, Japan, with more than 30 million.

In almost all parts of the world, people are generally healthier now than they were one hundred years ago. In both the United States and Britain, for example, (10) a _ _ _ _ e life expectancy today is around 80 years; but in 1911, it was only just over 50 (due mainly to the far higher proportion of people who died from illnesses before that age).

The political map of the world in 1911 was very different from that of today. Particularly in (11) _ _ _ _ _ a and Asia, many of what are now independent countries were colonies in the European empires, the biggest of which was (12) B _ _ _ _ _ ’s. Democracy, as we would understand the word today, was a rarity. Only two countries, (13) N _ _ Z _ _ _ _ _ and (14) F _ nl _ _ _ , had elections in which all adults – men and women – were able to vote.

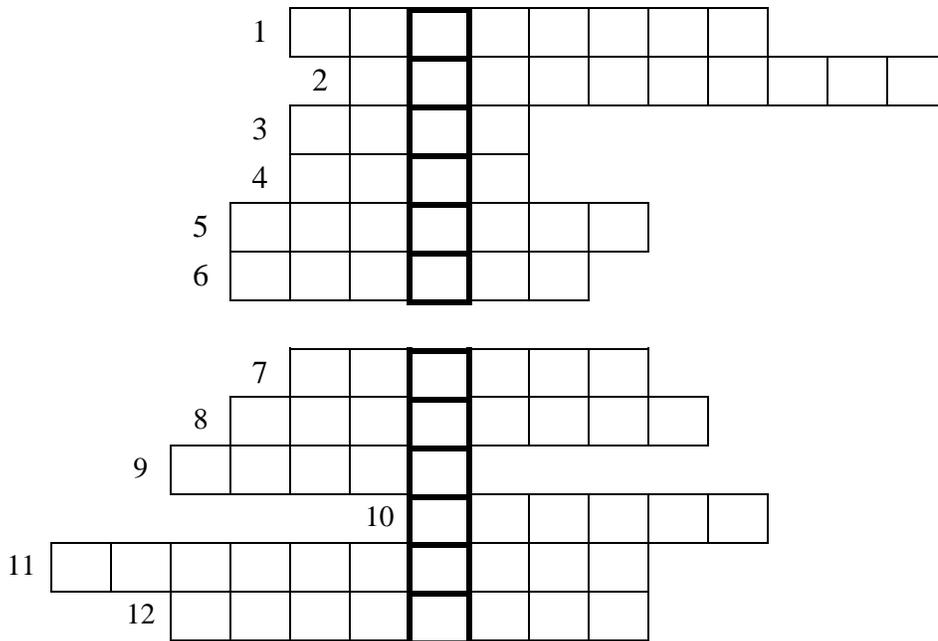
Because so many aspects of modern life would probably seem miraculous to those who were alive in 1911, it can come as a surprise to realize how few generations separate us from them. For many of us it is the case that our great-grandparents were adults in 1911. The conclusion we might draw is that much of the world our great-grandchildren will experience, in 2111, is unimaginable to us.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 2

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the name of a famous person born in 1911, who died in 2004, will read from top to bottom. He was the president of the United States from 1981–1989.



1. Radio used to be called “_____ telegraphy.”
2. The world’s _____ is almost four times bigger now than it was in 1911.
3. The first bombs carried by aircraft were dropped by the pilots by _____.
4. The *Titanic* sank less than a _____ after being launched.
5. People were generally less _____ one hundred years ago than they are now.
6. Roald Amundsen was the _____ of the explorers who reached the South Pole in 1911.
7. The explorers were all from _____.
8. Unlike motor cars and radio, neither the jet engine nor television had been _____ by 1911.
9. There has been a war in _____ in 2011, just as there was in 1911.
10. The _____ population will soon be 7 billion.
11. Since 1911, average life _____ in the United States and Britain has increased by about 30 years.
12. Many countries that in 1911 were European _____ in Africa and Asia have since become independent.

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 3

The text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but contains some mistakes. Fifteen of the words in bold are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

One hundred years ago, in 1911, the world was a very different place. The (1) **sheep** *Titanic* was launched in Belfast, (2) **North** Ireland, on May 31 (and less than a year later, in April, 1912, would sink in the north Atlantic after hitting an (3) **icebig**, with the loss of more than 1,500 lives); the first bombs to be dropped from an aircraft (small (4) **handhold** ones) were dropped on November 1 over what is now Libya, by the Italian pilot of an early propeller-driven aircraft during the “Libyan War” between Italy and Turkey; and a Norwegian named Roald Amundsen led the first five-man Antarctic expedition to the South Pole, reaching their (5) **destiny** on December 14.

It goes without saying that life in 1911 was very different from today. Much of the technology that would have a big (6) **pact** on people’s lives in the 20th century did not yet exist: television and (7) **jet** engines are just two examples. Motor cars and radio (or “wireless telegraphy,” as it was called then) had been invented, but the (8) **form** were a rare sight outside major cities and the (9) **later** was still unknown to most people. As for the telephone, hardly any homes had one, even in the most (10) **developed** countries.

In 1911, there were also far fewer people: the global population was around 1.8 billion, in comparison with more than 6.9 billion today. The world’s most (11) **populise** city was London, Britain, with around 7 million people; today it is Tokyo, Japan, with more than 30 million.

In almost all parts of the world, people are generally healthier now than they were one hundred years ago. In both the United States and Britain, for example, average life (12) **expect** today is around 80 years; but in 1911, it was only just over 50 (due mainly to the far higher (13) **proportion** of people who died from illnesses before that age).

The political map of the world in 1911 was very different from that of today. Particularly in Africa and Asia, many of what are now (14) **independant** countries were colonies in the European (15) **imperes**, the biggest of which was Britain’s. (16) **Democracy**, as we would understand the word today, was a (17) **rarity**. Only two countries, New Zealand and Finland, had elections in which all adults – men and women – were able to vote.

Because so many (18) **pect**s of modern life would probably seem (19) **miraculless** to those who were alive in 1911, it can come as a surprise to realize how few (20) **gerations** separate us from them. For many of us it is the case that our great-grandparents were adults in 1911. The conclusion we might draw is that much of the world our great-grandchildren will experience, in 2111, is unimaginable to us.

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WORKSHEET D

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