

TOEFL Junior : Reading Comprehension Test 1

Read the passage . 60 - 100 minutes

Strait of Magellan

Ferdinand Magellan , a Portuguese explorer and navigator in the service of Charles of Spain, became the first European to navigate the strait in 1520 during his global circumnavigation voyage.

On March 22, 1518, the expedition was organized in Valladolid, naming Magellan captain general of the fleet and governor of all the lands discovered, and establishing the privileges of Magellan and his business associate Rui Faleiro. The fleet would become known as the "Armada de las Molucas" or "Fleet of the Moluccas". The expeditionary fleet of five ships set sail from Sanlúcar de Barrameda on September 20, 1519. Ferdinand Magellan became involved in the quagmire of political intrigue at court and lost the king's favor. After he was dismissed from

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One ship deserted while in the passage and returned to Spain, so fewer sailors were privileged to gaze at that first panorama of the Pacific Ocean. Those who remained crossed the meridian now known as the International Date Line in the early spring of 1521 after 98 days on the Pacific Ocean. During those long days at sea, many of Magellan's men died of starvation and disease. Later, Magellan became involved in an insular conflict in the Philippines and was killed in a tribal battle. Only one ship and 17 sailors under the command of the Basque navigator Elcano survived to complete the westward journey to Spain and thus prove once and for all that the world is round, with no precipice at the edge.

INSTRUCTION:

Read the questions carefully and refer to the text above then choose the best answer:

1. The 15th century was an age of great _____ exploration.

- A. cosmic
- B. land
- C. mental
- D. common man
- E. None of the above

2. Magellan lost the favor of the king of Portugal when he became involved in a political _____.

- A. entanglement
- B. discussion
- C. negotiation
- D. problem
- F. None of the above

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across the continent.

- A. coastline
- B. mountain range
- C. physical features
- D. islands
- E. None of the above

5. Four of the ships sought a passage along a southern _____.

- A. coast
- B. inland
- C. body of land with water on three sides
- D. border
- E. Answer not available

6. The passage was found near 50 degrees S of _____.

- A. Greenwich
- B. The equator
- C. Spain
- D. Portugal
- E. Madrid

7. In the spring of 1521, the ships crossed the _____ now called the International Date Line.

- A. imaginary circle passing through the poles
- B. imaginary line parallel to the equator
- C. area
- D. land mass
- E. Answer not available

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Answers and Explanations

- 1. B:** "Terrestrial" means land. No choice here offers a synonym for "marine," e.g. nautical/naval/water/seagoing, and no other choices match either marine or terrestrial.
- 2. A:** "Quagmire" means literally a bog or marsh, and figuratively an involved situation difficult to escape; entanglement is a synonym, more specifically similar than the other choices.
- 3. A:** Longitudes are imaginary geographical lines running north and south. Latitudes run east and west. The other choices do not equal either latitude or longitude in direction.
- 4. C:** Topography means the physical features of a land mass. It does not mean coastline (A), mountain range (B), or islands (D).
- 5. C:** A peninsula is a piece of land connected to the mainland by an isthmus and projecting into the ocean such that it is surrounded on three sides by water. A peninsula is not a coast (A); it is not found inland (B); and it is not a border (D).

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