

Reading Comprehension

Read the following passage and then answer the questions below:

Before the discovery of oil in the Gulf region, the most important industry was pearling. It was pearling that led the first families to settle on the coast and build the cities. Pearling was at its height in the 18th and 19th centuries and continued until the 1930s when it was badly affected by the worldwide economic depression and the creation of the cultured pearls by the Japanese.

The people who dived for pearls had to be very fit, strong and had to stay underwater for at least a minute and a half. They would often dive up to 30 times a day and swim as deep as 25 metres. They used to eat in the morning before diving and in the evening when they had finished diving, but they didn't eat at all while they were working. The divers had no breathing equipment, just a clip like a clothes peg to keep their nostrils closed and leather covers to protect their fingers and toes.

The divers would descend on a rope with a stone weight attached. They would put the oysters in a string bag which was pulled up by a puller. All the oysters were collected together on deck by the ship captain and the divers never know if it was one of their oysters which contained a pearl. The oysters were opened in the evening and the divers weren't paid any wages but they shared in the profits when the pearls were sold.

A) From a, b, c and d choose the correct answer:

1. The best title for this passage is
a) economic depression b) pearling industry c) Oil d) difficult life
2. The underlined pronoun "they" in line seven refers to
a) divers b) oysters c) The Gulf people d) the fish
3. The underlined word "region" in line one means
a) distance b) area c) special kind of fish d) a boat

B) Answer the following questions:

4. What did a pearl diver have to be?

.....

5. What affected the industry of pearling after 1930s?

.....

6. How did divers get paid?

.....