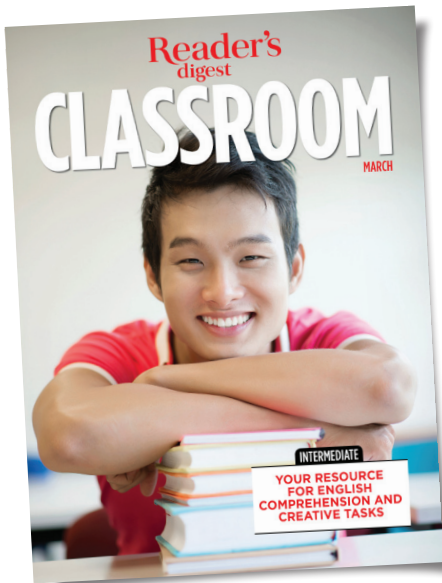


Answers



RD Classroom March 2016 Beginner

Download the question sheets at www.rdasia.com/rdclassroom. If you missed the March 2016 edition of Asia Reader's Digest at the newsagency, you can go to rdasia.com and call the helpful customer service numbers at the top left to order a copy.

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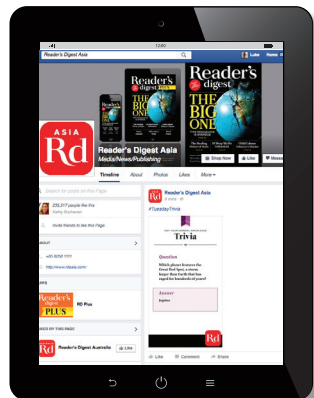
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ANSWERS FOR 'THE COMPANY OF HENS' (PAGE 32)

1. What is the HenPower project? Why has it been so successful?

The HenPower project uses chickens to help promote health and wellbeing in older people and to reduce loneliness. There are many reasons why you may say the project has been successful, but your answers should be based on the information in the story.

2. Will the HenPower project stay in Gateshead, in Northeast England, or are there plans to expand?

HenPower is being introduced into sheltered accommodation and care homes across England. Pilot schemes are also starting in Australia, and Frankfurt University is keen to test a similar project in Germany.

3. Alan Richards says, "Thanks to the hens I've made friends with people from four to 94." What do you think he means by this? How do you think it has worked?

Alan takes part in the HenPower roadshow tours. They visit various places such as schools, care homes for the elderly and hospitals. This allows the group to meet people from small children to the very old, whom Alan says he has made friends with. Your answer as to how you think it has worked should be based on the story and should include evidence such as the pride with which the HenPower team speak of their work and the way they have been able to involve people who no-one thought would become involved, from Alan himself to the stroke victim.

4. Have the chickens particularly helped mainly female or male residents? Why do you think this is? Find evidence in the text to support your answer.

The men have benefitted most obviously from the chickens. The story tells us that women will make friends with one another, but men are often more isolated. While the women in the story enjoy taking care of the hens, it is the men who have had the most changes to their lives thanks to caring for the chickens, and who talk of the biggest differences.

ACTIVITY Create a poster to advertise the HenPower project. You can pretend it operates in your local area if you prefer. Use the article to select key pieces of information for the poster to spread the message to others. Your poster should be clear, informative and easy to follow.

Be as creative as you like to produce thoughtful posters or flyers. Posters should include key bits of information from the story to show you have understood it and that you are able to select useful facts and quotes to help tell a story. Give yourself five points if you made a poster, and another five points if you showed it to someone else.

ANSWERS FOR 'IN PRAISE OF TECHNOLOGY' (PAGE 42)

1. What do you think made the writer decide to write this story?

The writer begins by telling us of times he has told his daughter about life before modern technology, from swimming with frogs to having to walk to record stores. But he quickly realises that things are better now and that he would be a hypocrite if he did not admit how useful he finds his smartphone. Your answer should show that you have understood the article – the story of a man who has embraced the use of technology in his everyday life. The article is positive towards technology and this should come across in your answer, along with at least one supporting example.

2. The writer is very positive about the influence of technology in his life and how it makes various tasks easier, such as not needing to go to a shop to buy music. Are there also negatives to technology? What do you think?

To answer this question fully you should state your opinion and explain it using examples from the story or from your own experience. For example, buying items through an app is usually easier than going to a shop, but it can mean that you miss out on talking with people on the trip to the shop, or in the shop itself. By leaving the house, you might find something that is better than the item you were going to buy, or a better price, or you might meet a friend unexpectedly and end up spending the day with

them rather than shopping. There are no wrong answers to this question but answers need to show that you have given thought to the changes technology has made – both for better and for worse. Give yourself full points if you have done this.

3. The picture chosen for the article shows a famous sculpture with a smartphone. Why do you think this picture was chosen? Could you design another picture that would work well to illustrate this article?

The picture shows *David*, one of the world's most famous sculptures, carved by Michelangelo at the turn of the 16th century. He is holding a smartphone where the original holds a slingshot. This is meant to show a contrast between the old and the new, but also a blend of the two, just as the writer enjoys his old memories of the pre-digital days, but loves the advantages of technology. Give yourself three points if your answer covered similar ideas. A full answer should also state whether it is a good fit for the article and whether or not it complements the story. This will be based on your opinion; give yourself two points if you have stated an opinion and supported it using at least two pieces of evidence or examples. Give yourself an additional two points if you designed another image. Think it's better than the one we used? See page 6 of the magazine for how to send us a photo.

4. The writer suggests there is evidence that shows technology is improving people. What are these improvements, as stated on page 45?

Use the evidence given in the story to show how this may (or may not) be true. For example, you may state that due to technology we are much more connected with other people and breaking news and trends around the world thanks to news, social media, video sites and so on that offer an almost immediate insight into events, which previously we didn't have. This makes people feel more in control, as well as closer to others and more aware of the world. You may disagree and say that the same technology can divide people – by allowing them to form cliques online where they do not have to associate with anyone who does not think

the way they do. That can lead to a wide range of problems, from bullying to racism and encouraging unhealthy or illegal behaviour. You may be concerned that technology can be socially isolating as we have fewer face-to-face contacts and spend more time online. Or you may have a mixed response, saying something like we are encouraged to display more empathy as we learn more about more people, but are also more stressed as we learn more about the world's many problems. Answers should offer explanations and examples to support your opinion. Give yourself full marks if you have made a good attempt at explaining your point of view.

ACTIVITY Many apps are mentioned in the article. If you were to invent an app to make something in life simpler, what would it be? What benefits would it have? Design and explain your app, including a name for it. What sort of people would use your app?

Get creative and use your imagination to design an app that you feel would make an everyday task easier. Give yourself full points if you are able to explain your reasoning and ideas, along with who the app would be aimed at. If you think you have a great idea, see page 6 of the magazine for details on how to tell us about it – or find a friend to help you build and sell it first then tell us about your success!

ANSWERS FOR 'VOLCANOES' (PAGE 76)

1. How many volcanoes have the potential to erupt each year? On average how many do erupt each year?

Approximately 1000 volcanoes have the potential to erupt each year. Annually, 50-70 eruptions occur on average.

2. Where is the 'Ring of Fire'? How did it earn its name?

The Ring of Fire is a region around the Pacific Ocean where a great many volcanoes, eruptions and earthquakes occur. It includes several tectonic plates, which move together and apart. Most of the largest earthquakes and volcanic eruptions on Earth happen in this region. Give yourself three points if your answer

was similar to this, and two bonus points if you did extra research to name the tectonic plates or countries in the Ring of Fire.

3. What are the differences between extinct, dormant and active volcanoes?

The classification of a volcano depends on how long since it last erupted. An **extinct** volcano has had no known eruptions in at least 10,000 years; **dormant** volcanoes haven't erupted recently, maybe not for thousands of years; and **active** volcanoes show signs of unrest up to and including erupting. However, though a volcano can be classed as extinct, it does not mean it will never erupt again.

4. Which incident caused increased efforts to develop better detection systems for volcanic eruptions? Using additional materials (books, internet, talking with people who know about volcanoes), find at least one method of detection used to predict eruptions and write a short explanation of how it works.

The eruption of Iceland's volcano (Eyjafjallajökull) caused the cancellation of some 100,000 flights in 2010. This resulted in a US\$1.7 billion loss for the aviation industry, which spurred efforts for better detection and avoidance systems. There is a wide range of possible answers when it comes to methods of detection. Award yourself points based on how much research you did and how accurately the information was conveyed. Traditional methods such as watching birds and animals count as much as technological methods such as seismometers.

Activity: Using the article, draw a volcano on a separate piece of paper. Use the word bank below to label your drawing. Using what you have learned from the article, along with your labelled diagram, can you explain to someone else how a volcano erupts?

Magma	Dust and ash	Lava
Vent		Crater

Your answers will be individual, but your diagram of a volcano should resemble the one below. Give yourself five points if you labelled all the parts correctly. Give yourself an additional two points if you explained to someone how a volcano erupts and a further three if your explanation covered most of the following points. Super-hot magma from beneath the Earth's surface is pushed upwards by changes in pressure; the magma breaks through at a weak spot in the Earth's crust and erupts as lava, ash, volcanic dust and stone.

