BEGINNERS GROUP

Class: ________________________  Name: ________________________

PART A. You are going to listen to a talk about cotton. Listen to the talk carefully, and mark the statements true (T) or false (F). Now, you have 30 seconds to have a look at the sentences.

Cotton

T  F  1. Cotton is around 7,000 years old.
T  F  2. Cotton was used both in Pakistan and Egypt about 5,000 years ago.
T  F  3. Cotton fiber is the most commonly used fiber in the world.
T  F  4. Summer is the time to plant cotton.
T  F  5. Brazil, Pakistan and Turkey produce 23% of all the cotton in the world.
T  F  6. Some parts of cotton plant are used as animal food.

PART B. Listen to the talk again, and complete the sentences. Now, you have 50 seconds to have a look at the sentences.

1. The oldest pieces of cotton cloth were found in 1940s, in caves near ________________________.
2. In the year ________________________, Arab merchants brought cotton to Europe.
3. Cotton is used mostly in ________________________ and household items.
4. ________________________ % of all the cotton production in the world belongs to the U.S.
5. The seeds of cotton are crushed to make ________________________.
6. The remaining parts of the cotton seeds are ________________________ into the soil to make it rich.
BEGINNERS GROUP
Audio script
(Instructor’s Copy)

PART A. You are going to listen to a talk about cotton. Listen to the talk carefully, and mark the statements true (T) or false (F). Now, you have 30 seconds to have a look at the sentences.

COTTON

Today, cotton is used all over the world with many different purposes. In this talk, we will have a look at its brief history, importance and uses.

No one knows exactly how old cotton is. In 1940s, scientists found pieces of cloth when they were searching caves near Mexico. They studied these pieces and concluded that cotton is about 7,000 years old. It is also known that cotton was grown in the Indus River Valley in Pakistan about 5,000 years ago. At about the same time, that is 5,000 years ago, people in Egypt were also making and wearing cotton clothing. Arab merchants brought cotton to Europe in about 800. Cotton became known all around the world in the year 1500.

Having talked about its history, let me give some information about the importance of cotton. Today, the world uses cotton more than any other fibre and it is a leading crop in the USA. It is a part of our daily lives from the time we dry our faces on a soft cotton towel in the morning until we slide between cotton sheets at night. It has hundreds of uses from blue jeans to shoe strings. Clothing and household items are the largest uses, but cotton use is very important in other areas as well.

Cotton grows in warm climates. Too low temperatures are not suitable for growing cotton. It is planted in spring and harvested at the end of summer. Most of the world’s cotton is grown in the U.S., Uzbekistan, China and India. The U.S is number one with 37%. The other three countries, Uzbekistan, China and India, follow it with 23% in total. Other leading cotton growing countries are Brazil, Pakistan and Turkey.

Interestingly, all parts of the cotton plant are useful. The most important is the fibre. It is used in making cloth. Also, some parts of the plant are used in cellulose production. Cellulose is used for making plastics and explosives. Moreover, the cottonseed is crushed and oil is made. This oil is used in cooking, or in salads. Some parts of the seed are used to feed many kinds of animals including chickens and fish. And finally, the remaining parts are used as fertilizer. This means, when they are mixed into the soil, the soil becomes rich. Now, let’s have a look at the method of …FADE OUT
PART B. Listen to the talk again, and complete the sentences. Now, you have 50 seconds to have a look at the sentences.

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This is the end of the listening section. Hand in your papers to your teacher.

ANSWER KEY

PART A.
1. T
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. F
6. T

PART B.
1. Mexico
2. 800
3. clothing
4. 37
5. oil
6. mixed