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Grade Seven

Reading Comprehension

Read the text and answer the questions below:

One custom that gives insight into people's history and values is the way they greet one another. There is a wide range of greetings around the world. These range from the common handshake to other strange rituals found in some countries. Let's take a look at how the simple action of greeting someone differs greatly from place to place

In the United States and Canada, for example, a simple handshake or nod is the norm. The handshake has an interesting origin: it started long ago as a way of showing people that you weren't carrying a weapon. Shaking the person's right hand while looking him or her in the eye is the usual method. Handshakes are also common in other parts of the world, including Britain and Russia. In Russia, males grasp other men's hands very strongly during the handshake. Handshakes are also how most people in New Zealand greet each other. However, the native Maori people of that country display more physical contact : they press their noses together in a sign of trust and closeness .

In other countries, such as France and Belgium, hugging and kissing are more common when two people meet. In those cultures, people kiss each other on the cheeks. The number of times varies depending on the particular country. In Saudi Arabia, men might hug and kiss each other (but not a woman) on the cheek. Men will also shake hands with other men there. In some Eastern countries, including Korea and Japan, bowing is the traditional greeting. In Japan, the deeper the bow, the deeper the respect shown. The strangest custom, though, is likely in Tibet. People there opt to stick out their tongue to greet others.

Reading :

Part 1: Circle the best answer.

1. What type of writing is the text?

- A. An advert for world travel
- B. A news story
- C. An article in a magazine
- D. A science journal

Part 2: Answer Yes or No for each question.

- 2. Is there a wide range of greetings around the world? _____
- 3. Do the native Maori people press their noses together? _____
- 4. Will men shake hands with other men in Saudi? _____

Part 3: Give a short answer for each question (no more than four words).

- 5. How do people greet each other in Russia?

- 6. What do the Maori people do in greeting ?

- 7. Where do people kiss in France?

- 8. Write two or three sentences summing up the article. What is it about? ? Is greeting different or the same around the world ?How do people greet each other in the eastern countries?

