

ALL QUESTIONS WORTH 4 POINTS**The Dragon Pearl**

Adapted after a Chinese story



In China dragons were a symbol of strength and power, and the Chinese emperors used to call themselves dragons. It was believed that these creatures were hiding in caves in the mountains or in the depths of the waters. Dragons used to bring rain when there was drought, stop the rain when there were floods.

They didn't spit fire and they didn't want to harm people. The Chinese believed that dragons were the biggest strength on Earth and that their power came from the pearls carried under their chins.

It's said that long ago, in a village on the bank of the Yellow River, there lived

an orphan boy named Li. He took care of his old and ill grandma.

Like all the other peasants, although he was just 12 years old, Li worked hard the patch of field received from Yen, the owner of the village's lands and houses. Yen believed that, being the owner of the land, he could take all that peasants had. So it was hard for Li to provide him and his grandma each day a handful of rice.

One year a terrible drought struck the land, the plants dried out, and for many days Li couldn't find anything to eat. Then a dragon came out of the river and threw a pearl on the field where Li was working. Immediately, in the place where the pearl fell, there appeared a bundle of rice stalks just good to eat. In order not to lose a single grain, Li carefully lifted the bundle of rice. But then he saw the pearl on the ground and took it to sell it.

When the boy arrived home, he started to remove the grains from the stalks and put it in a large wooden chest where they used to store the rice. But there was little rice so it barely covered the bottom of the chest. Li also put the pearl in the chest. The old woman boiled two handfuls of rice, they ate and then they went to bed.

The next day, to her great joy, grandma found the chest full of good rice. So Li told her how he had found the pearl and put it in the chest. They realized that the pearl was a gift from the dragon. So the boy began to share a bowl of rice every day with all the villagers who were starving, just as him. The chest filled itself as Li took rice out of it.

Some villagers were grateful, the others, envious, told everyone how much rice Li had. A short time later, Yen, the owner of the lands, rushed into Li's yard, accompanied by his bullies. Yen asked the boy where he had got so much rice to feed the whole village, and Li replied that a dragon had given him the rice so he could share it with the people.

"Show me what you've been hiding! Everything that's yours belongs to me!" cried out the owner of the land! Feeling annoyed, the boy took the pearl out of the chest and swallowed it in front of everyone. Soon, a pair of wings appeared on Li's back. The boy turned into a mighty dragon who vanished into the river. Heavy clouds gathered in the sky and it began to rain. The villagers started to dance being so happy that the rain would save their harvest. Since then, sometimes, Dragon Li comes out of the river to see his grandma and what the villagers do.

1. In which country does the action of the story take place?

- A) Japan
- B) Korea
- C) China
- D) Indonesia
- E) Pakistan

2. In the Chinese mythology, dragons were creatures which

- A) spit fire
- B) harm people
- C) have the greatest powers
- D) live only in caves
- E) live only in rivers

3. People believed that dragons take their power from some

- A) clouds
- B) pearls
- C) river waters
- D) caves
- E) fire

4. The dragon said: "What will people do without water?", because he

- A) cared about the people
- B) he didn't like people
- C) was the most powerful creature
- D) took shelter in the river
- E) lived in a cave

5. So that Li and his grandma have something to eat, the dragon

- A) brought the rain.
- B) made rice grow on the land where Li worked.
- C) gave Li more land.
- D) gave rice to all the peasants.
- E) gave Li some money.

6. Where did Li find the dragon pearl?

- A) In the forest
- B) In a shell
- C) On the ground
- D) On the bottom of the river
- E) In a cave

7. Li realized that the dragon had given him a pearl when

- A) he found it
- B) he saw the bundle of good rice
- C) he saw the chest full of rice
- D) it started to rain
- E) Yen came to the village

8. Yen found out that Li has lot of rice from

- A) the envious peasants
- B) Li himself
- C) Li's grandma
- D) his bullies
- E) the dragon

9. Yen, the owner of the land, was a(n) man.

- A) humble
- B) kind
- C) understanding
- D) generous
- E) greedy

10. Yen, the owner of the lands in the village, came with his bullies to

- A) frighten the peasants.
- B) to share rice with the villagers.
- C) protect villagers from thieves.
- D) help peasants harvest their crops.
- E) pray for the rain.

11. Li turned into a dragon when

- A) he found the pearl.
- B) he jumped into the river.
- C) he swallowed the pearl.
- D) he ate the rice.
- E) he broke the pearl.

12. What happened when Li turned into a dragon?

- A) It started to rain.
- B) The river dried out.
- C) The peasants were upset.
- D) All the rice disappeared.
- E) Yen asked for forgiveness.

13. According to the story, dragon Li comes out of the river to

- A) eat
- B) visit Yen
- C) see what people do
- D) change the seasons
- E) bring rice

14. What did Yen do after Li had become a dragon?

- A) He took Li's house.
- B) He ran away.
- C) He gave money to people.
- D) He shared the rice with the villagers.
- E) It is not mentioned in the story.

Most of the human settlements were built near waters because people need a lot of water for cooking, washing or feeding animals. Water is also used to produce bricks, ceramics, process metals or other materials.

Water has always been important to agriculture. Vegetable gardens, orchards, grain fields or other plants consume large amounts of water

The land which does not receive water for a long time dries and cracks and soon turns into a desert.

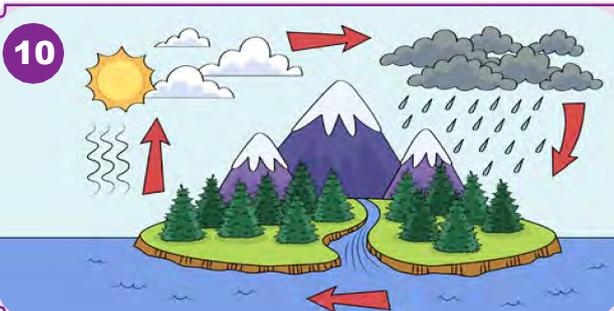


People have always found water of rivers, lakes or seas as important food resources. Then, by sailing, they explored new territories and started to exchange products.

People were able to use the water to set in motion trains and ships. Their engines ran using the steam obtained by boiling water.



Hydropower plants use the potential energy of falling water into electricity. Atomic power plants use water to cool the reactors.



On Earth, water doesn't stay still. It is always on the move. It evaporates from seas, oceans, rivers, lakes and streams. In the atmosphere, water turns into liquid particles, which fall to Earth again as rain, snow, hail, drizzle.

There are thunderstorms and hailstorms in the nature, floods which can damage people's homes and crop production.

15. People do not use water to

- A) light the fire
- B) prepare food
- C) raise animals
- D) drink
- E) wash clothes

16. In which picture can you see an irrigation system?

- A) Picture 1
- B) Picture 2
- C) Picture 3
- D) Picture 4
- E) Picture 5

17. In which picture can you see a steamboat?

- A) Picture 4
- B) Picture 5
- C) Picture 6
- D) Picture 7
- E) Picture 8

18. In hydropower plants, electricity is produced by

- A) boiling water
- B) the falling water
- C) burning coal
- D) the wind
- E) the petrol

19. In waters, people have found important sources of food, such as

- A) fish, apples, crabs, salt.
- B) corn, milk, fish, oil.
- C) fish, shells, sugar, honey.
- D) fish, shells, crabs, salt.
- E) Oranges, sugar, fish, shells.

20. Picture 8 illustrates

- A) a boat
- B) a hydropower plant
- C) a ship
- D) a waterfall
- E) a fountain

21. The water cycle in nature is illustrated in

- A) Picture 1
- B) Picture 5
- C) Picture 10
- D) Picture 8
- E) Picture 9

22. Which is precipitation in liquid state?

- A) Snow
- B) Rain
- C) Hail
- D) Sleet
- E) Fog

23. Which are precipitations in solid state?

- A) Rain and snow
- B) Rain and drizzle
- C) Snow and hail
- D) Hail and rain
- E) Hail and drizzle

24. Water is a great wealth, therefore, water must not be

- A) used in irrigation
- B) drunk
- C) used for washing hands
- D) used for making electricity
- E) wasted and polluted

