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TWIN TOWNS

The idea of twinning towns was introduced after the Second World War as a way of increasing international understanding.

Belgrade is the twin of Coventry (one of Coventry's main theatres is called Belgrade Theatre), Ljubljana is twinned with Nottingham, Maribor with Greenwich, Novi Sad with Norwich.

In Croatia there are two twin towns: Zagreb is twinned with Birmingham, Split with Dover.

Birmingham Twin Town of Zagreb

Birmingham is the second largest town in the United Kingdom. It is in the industrial Midlands and has a population of 1,100,000.

List A below gives the names of a number of world famous products that are made in Birmingham. See how many you can fit with list B that says what these products are.

A	B
Cadbury	popular family car
Leyland	sports car
Jaguar	chocolate
MG	tyres and rubber products
Schweppes	soft drinks
Dunlop	lorries and commercial vehicles
Austin	fast luxury car.

Birmingham has been famous ever since the seventeenth century as a maker of tools. The tools given in list A below have been made in Birmingham for 300 years. Try to fit the tools with their description in list B.

A	B
screw	used to cut accurate lengths of wood
hammer	chop wood into rough shapes
file	dig the ground
axe	fix things onto wood
saw	bang in nails
spade	cut metal

It was Birmingham that, during the nineteenth century, came to be called »The Workshop of the World« though later the idea was extended to all of England.

During the last ten years the whole of the centre of Birmingham has been rebuilt. If you arrive there by train (it is about 90 minutes from London) you can go straight by moving staircase up to the new Bull Ring Shopping Centre. It gets its name from the fact that it is built where the old cattle market used to stand. Now there is no sign of anything like bulls and cows. It is a huge covered shopping town (350,000 sq ft - how many meters?) with a market, shops, public houses, restaurants, dance halls, a bus station and escalators linking the many different levels. You can go shopping on the wettest day and not get wet, and on the coldest day you do not get cold because the Bull Ring is heated and the bus or train brings you right to it. It is one of the biggest covered shopping centres in Europe.

There are a number of reasons why Birmingham became the twin town of Zagreb. Like Zagreb it is the second largest city in its own country. Like Zagreb it is a big industrial centre. Like Zagreb it has a university and a symphony orchestra. And one more reason. Like Zagreb it has a famous football team. Zagreb has Dinamo and Birmingham has Aston Villa.

Dover Twin Town of Split

Two of the reasons for Split and Dover being twin towns are obvious: both are famous harbours, and have been so from Roman times, and both are dominated by an ancient building that is still used for the purpose for which it was originally built. Diocletian's Palace still plays an important part in the life of Split, in fact one cannot imagine Split without it, and, people still live and work in it, and find amusement in it. In the same way one cannot imagine Dover without Dover Castle. The oldest parts date from the eleventh century and for hundreds of years it was known as »the key of England«. Still today it is used by the army.

Dover owes its importance to the fact that it is the nearest harbour to the continent of Europe. From Dover to Cape Griz Nez is only 13 miles, and to Calais the nearest French harbour it is 21 miles. The Romans, when they came to Britain, made Dover an important harbour and it was the beginning of Watling Street, the first great Roman road to London.

A lot of »firsts« in sport are linked to Dover. Exactly one hundred years ago, in 1875, Captain Webb, the first man to swim the channel, started from Dover, and the swim took him 21.45 hours. In 1921 the first woman channel swimmer started here and swam the channel in 14.30 hours. Louis Bleriot, the first man to fly the channel, landed at Dover in 1909,

Take a map of south-east England and try to answer the following:

How far is it in kilometers from Calais to Dover?

What do you think the country between Dover and London is like?

What county is Dover in?

Which town on the railway between Dover and London has Britain's most famous cathedral in it?

What is the present record for swimming the channel and who made it?

The importance of Dover has changed greatly since the days of air travel. For centuries the first sight of Britain for most travellers from Europe was »the white cliffs of Dover«. Even today everyone should go to Britain at last once by boat. They will first see the enormous number of ships in this busiest shipping lane in the whole world. Then they will see the white cliffs at first gradually through the haze, or perhaps through rain, but getting clearer and nearer until Dover Castle is visible on top of them with Dover harbour lying below it.

This calls to mind one more similarity between Dover and Split. Split, too, should be approached by sea and at the point where the boat turns into the harbour we see Diocletian's Palace and the white cliffs of Mosor rising up behind the town. The silvery white limestone cliffs of Mosor are as much part of Split as the white chalk cliffs are of Dover.

Answers to questions

1. *Cadbury* is one of the most famous kinds of British chocolate, *Leyland* makes lorries and commercial vehicles used all over the world, a *Jaguar* is a fast luxury car, an *MG* a sports car, *Schweppes* were one of first to make bottled, fizzy, soft drinks (soda water was their first), *Dunlop* is famous for tyres and rubber goods the *Austin* is a popular family car.

2. *Screws* are used to fix things onto wood, we bang in nails with a *hammer*, *files* are used to cut metal, *axes* to chop wood into rough shapes, *saws* to cut wood into accurate lengths, *spades* to dig in the ground.

3. Dover is 34 kilometers from Calais. The country between Dover and London is flat and is very built up, south-east England has the highest density of population of any part of Britain. Once this region used to be known as the garden of England and there are still large fruit orchards in it, though not as many as there used to be. Dover is in Kent, the famous cathedral town between it and London is Canterbury, probably the most famous cathedral in Britain. The present record for swimming the Channel was set up by Barry Watson who swam from France to Dover in 9 hours 35 mins. in 1964.

Ivana Batušić

SAINT-PAUL-DE-VENCE, UNE VILLE PAS COMME LES AUTRES

L'autocar vient de quitter Nice, perle de la Côte d'Azur. Des touristes de toutes les nationalités attendent avec impatience le grand circuit sur la route Napoléon à travers les Alpes Maritimes. Le but de l'excursion est Saint-Paul-de-Vence, ville d'un cachet tout particulier, cité des arts, des lettres et de l'artisanat provençal.

Le guide, une dame entre les deux âges, ayant accueilli aimablement les touristes commence bientôt ses explications.