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U.S. state decides on official state gun

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110320-guns.html>

IN THIS LESSON:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Multiple Choice	5
Spelling	6
Put the Text Back Together	7
Scrambled Sentences	8
Discussion	9
Writing	10
Homework	11

ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

20th March, 2011

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110320-guns.html>

The American state of Utah has chosen a new symbol – a gun. Utah becomes the first American state to have an official firearm. The new addition to Utah's state symbols is the Browning M1911 pistol. It was designed by Utah native John Browning. In 1911, it became the standard gun given to all American soldiers. It is still used by some of America's elite military units. A state spokeswoman said: "This bill isn't so much about a weapon as it is about honoring John Browning, who was a Utah inventor and entrepreneur."

The new law is unpopular with many Utah residents. Critics say the new state symbol sends a message that gun violence is OK. Democratic politician Brian King voted against the bill. He said: "When we are talking about a state symbol, we would do well to come up with one that is more unifying than divisive...This is just a poor choice for a state symbol." Republican Carl Wimmer defended the choice of the Browning M1911. He said it represented freedom, not death.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110320-guns.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The American | a. Utah's state symbols |
| 2. have an official | b. military units |
| 3. The new addition to | c. firearm |
| 4. the standard gun given to | d. entrepreneur |
| 5. elite | e. state of Utah |
| 6. a Utah inventor and r | f. all American soldiers |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. The new law | a. than divisive |
| 2. voted against | b. up with |
| 3. come | c. not death |
| 4. more unifying | d. a state symbol |
| 5. a poor choice for | e. is unpopular |
| 6. it represented freedom, | f. the bill |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110320-guns.html>

The American state of Utah has _____ – a gun. Utah becomes the first American state _____ firearm. The new addition to Utah's state symbols is the Browning M1911 pistol. _____ Utah native John Browning. In 1911, it became _____ given to all American soldiers. It is still used by some of America's _____. A state spokeswoman said: "This bill isn't so much about a weapon as _____ John Browning, who was a Utah inventor and entrepreneur."

The new _____ with many Utah residents. Critics say the new state symbol _____ that gun violence is OK. Democratic politician Brian King voted against the bill. He said: "When _____ about a state symbol, we would do well _____ one that is more unifying than divisive...This is just a poor choice for a state symbol." Republican Carl Wimmer _____ of the Browning M1911. He said _____, not death.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110320-guns.html>

The American state of Utah has (1) _____ a new symbol – a gun. Utah becomes the first American state to have an (2) _____ firearm. The new addition to Utah’s state symbols is the Browning M1911 pistol. It was designed (3) _____ Utah native John Browning. In 1911, it became the (4) _____ gun given to all American soldiers. It is still used by some of America’s elite military units. A state spokeswoman said: "This bill isn't (5) _____ much about a weapon (6) _____ it is about honoring John Browning, who was a Utah inventor and entrepreneur."

The new law is unpopular (7) _____ many Utah residents. Critics say the new state symbol sends a message that gun violence is OK. Democratic politician Brian King voted (8) _____ the bill. He said: "When we are talking about a state symbol, we would do well to (9) _____ up with one that is more unifying (10) _____ divisive...This is just a (11) _____ choice for a state symbol." Republican Carl Wimmer defended the choice of the Browning M1911. He said it represented freedom, not (12) _____.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) chosen | (b) choice | (c) chooses |
| 2. | (a) offices | (b) official | (c) officially |
| 3. | (a) by | (b) at | (c) in |
| 4. | (a) stand | (b) standards | (c) standard |
| 5. | (a) more | (b) so | (c) such |
| 6. | (a) as | (b) was | (c) has |
| 7. | (a) so | (b) with | (c) in |
| 8. | (a) against | (b) again | (c) gain |
| 9. | (a) go | (b) do | (c) come |
| 10. | (a) that | (b) than | (c) these |
| 11. | (a) poorly | (b) poverty | (c) poor |
| 12. | (a) dead | (b) die | (c) death |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110320-guns.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. chosen a new bmyosl
2. an ocfifali firearm
3. The new inotaidd
4. the asdrdatn gun
5. iltee military units
6. a Utah rivoentn

Paragraph 2

7. The new law is plrponuau
8. gun leivceon
9. voted agasitn the bill
10. more unifying than dviivsie
11. a poor hccoie
12. it represented redfmeo

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110320-guns.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () American state to have an official firearm. The new addition to Utah's state symbols is
- () the Browning M1911 pistol. It was designed by Utah native John Browning. In 1911, it became the standard
- (**1**) The American state of Utah has chosen a new symbol – a gun. Utah becomes the first
- () units. A state spokeswoman said: "This bill isn't so much about a weapon as it is about
- () choice for a state symbol." Republican Carl Wimmer defended the choice
- () bill. He said: "When we are talking about a state symbol, we would do
- () The new law is unpopular with many Utah residents. Critics say the new state symbol sends a
- () gun given to all American soldiers. It is still used by some of America's elite military
- () well to come up with one that is more unifying than divisive...This is just a poor
- () of the Browning M1911. He said it represented freedom, not death.
- () message that gun violence is OK. Democratic politician Brian King voted against the
- () honoring John Browning, who was a Utah inventor and entrepreneur."

WORD JUMBLE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110320-guns.html>

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. first to official The state an American have firearm.

2. new The symbols state Utah's to addition.

3. Utah It native was John designed Browning by.

4. Used elite by military some units of America's.

5. much This about bill a isn't weapon so.

6. gun Sends violence a is message OK that.

7. Brian voted the King against bill.

8. that Come is up more with unifying one.

9. poor choice for a state symbol This is just a.

10. not it death represented freedom He , said.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. STATE/CITY/NATIONAL SYMBOLS: Search the Internet and find more information about state, city or national symbols. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about guns. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for them and some who are against them. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the Utah state governor. Ask him three questions about guns. Give him three of your opinions on guns. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.