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New York to Moscow by train

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

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1110/111022-alaska_tunnel.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.

22nd October, 2011

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1110/111022-alaska_tunnel.html

During the Cold War, back in 1959, American senator Warren Magnuson asked the Soviet Deputy Premier Frol Kozlov about linking their two countries. He was not the first to have this idea. Russia's Tsar Nicholas II suggested it in 1905. Senator Magnuson believed a bridge or tunnel to connect Siberia and Alaska would help the USA and Soviet Union live next to each other more peacefully. He said: "Real American families driving in American-made cars, will do more [for good relations] than a...conference."

Over half a century later, the idea has returned. The BBC* reports that Russian officials want to dig a tunnel under the Bering Sea. It would be 105km long, which is twice as long as the UK to France tunnel. The tunnel would cost around \$12 billion to build and take up to 15 years. There would be an extra cost of over \$100 billion for an additional 6,000km of train track to connect U.S. and Russian cities and ports. The tunnel would also provide an important link for U.S. and Chinese trade. Passengers could make the New York-Moscow trip by 2041.

* Check out the cool video: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-15387714>

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1110/111022-alaska_tunnel.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. During the Cold | a. have this idea |
| 2. linking their two | b. more peacefully |
| 3. not the first to | c. Siberia and Alaska |
| 4. a bridge or tunnel to connect | d. War |
| 5. live next to each other | e. for good relations |
| 6. do more | f. countries |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Over half a | a. \$12 billion |
| 2. officials want to dig a tunnel | b. important link |
| 3. cost around | c. -Moscow trip |
| 4. Russian cities | d. century later |
| 5. provide an | e. under the Bering Sea |
| 6. Passengers could make the New York | f. and ports |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1110/111022-alaska_tunnel.html

_____, back in 1959, American senator Warren Magnuson asked the Soviet Deputy Premier Frol Kozlov _____ two countries. He _____ have this idea. Russia's Tsar Nicholas II suggested it in 1905. Senator Magnuson _____ tunnel to connect Siberia and Alaska would help the USA and Soviet Union live next to each _____. He said: "Real American families driving in American-made cars, will do more [_____] than a...conference."

Over _____, the idea has returned. The BBC reports that Russian officials want to dig a tunnel under the Bering Sea. It would be 105km long, which _____ the UK to France tunnel. The tunnel would cost around \$12 billion to _____ to 15 years. There would be _____ \$100 billion for an additional 6,000km of train _____ and Russian cities and ports. The tunnel would also _____ link for U.S. and Chinese trade. Passengers could make the New York-Moscow trip by 2041.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1110/111022-alaska_tunnel.html

During the Cold War, (1) _____ in 1959, American senator Warren Magnuson asked the Soviet Deputy Premier Frol Kozlov about (2) _____ their two countries. He was not the first to have this (3) _____. Russia's Tsar Nicholas II suggested it in 1905. Senator Magnuson believed a bridge or tunnel to connect Siberia and Alaska (4) _____ help the USA and Soviet Union live next to each other more (5) _____. He said: "Real American families driving in American-made cars, will do more [for (6) _____ relations] than a...conference."

Over half a century (7) _____, the idea has returned. The BBC reports that Russian officials want to (8) _____ a tunnel under the Bering Sea. It would be 105km long, which is twice as long (9) _____ the UK to France tunnel. The tunnel would cost around \$12 billion to build and take (10) _____ to 15 years. There would be an extra cost of over \$100 billion for an additional 6,000km of train track to connect U.S. and Russian cities and ports. The tunnel would (11) _____ provide an important link for U.S. and Chinese trade. Passengers could make the New York-Moscow trip (12) _____ 2041.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) past | (b) history | (c) back |
| 2. | (a) linking | (b) links | (c) linked |
| 3. | (a) ideas | (b) idea | (c) ideally |
| 4. | (a) would | (b) will | (c) wouldn't |
| 5. | (a) peaceful | (b) peacefully | (c) peace |
| 6. | (a) well | (b) goodness | (c) good |
| 7. | (a) following | (b) after | (c) later |
| 8. | (a) digging | (b) dig | (c) dug |
| 9. | (a) as | (b) has | (c) was |
| 10. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) up |
| 11. | (a) also | (b) other | (c) each |
| 12. | (a) at | (b) by | (c) under |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1110/111022-alaska_tunnel.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. kningli their two countries
2. not the tifrs
3. have this edai
4. etoccn Siberia and Alaska
5. live next to each other more eyalepuclf
6. good serolinat

Paragraph 2

7. half a yuecnrt later
8. Russian iisflfoca
9. wiect as long
10. an ntadiodlai 6,000km of train track
11. cities and psotr
12. erssgnasPe

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1110/111022-alaska_tunnel.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () first to have this idea. Russia's Tsar Nicholas II suggested it in 1905. Senator Magnuson believed
- () connect U.S. and Russian cities and ports. The tunnel would also provide an
- () as the UK to France tunnel. The tunnel would cost around \$12 billion to build and take up to
- () Over half a century later, the idea has returned. The BBC reports that Russian officials want
- () 15 years. There would be an extra cost of over \$100 billion for an additional 6,000km of train track to
- () to dig a tunnel under the Bering Sea. It would be 105km long, which is twice as long
- () in American-made cars, will do more [for good relations] than a...conference."
- () a bridge or tunnel to connect Siberia and Alaska would help the USA and Soviet Union live
- (**1**) During the Cold War, back in 1959, American senator Warren Magnuson asked
- () next to each other more peacefully. He said: "Real American families driving
- () the Soviet Deputy Premier Frol Kozlov about linking their two countries. He was not the
- () important link for U.S. and Chinese trade. Passengers could make the New York-Moscow trip by 2041.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. , During back the in Cold 1959 War.

2. not to idea was first this He the have.

3. or connect Alaska bridge to and A tunnel Siberia.

4. each to next Live peacefully more other.

5. for more Do relations good.

6. a century later , the idea has returned. Over half

7. want to dig a tunnel under the Bering Sea. Officials

8. UK tunnel as the France Twice as to long.

9. extra an be would There billion \$100 over of cost.

10. and U.S. for link important An trade Chinese.

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. TUNNELS: Search the Internet and find more information about tunnels that link countries. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about tunnels. Include an imaginary interview with the head of the Alaska tunnel project. 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 head of the Alaska tunnel project. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.